

Starting from the need for participation of all social forces in the process of Montenegrin integration into the system of values and standards of the European Union,

Convinced of the need to intensify the development of democracy, rule of law and civil society,

Believing that the non-governmental organisations and the media must recognise new opportunities for more intensive action and involvement in the processes of democratisation,

Encouraged by the fact that the final resolution of the statehood issue of Montenegro will broaden the space for the public dialogue and action concerning democracy, economy, social policy and other matters of citizen's life,

Considering that it is our obligation to continue pointing at the important social issues and problems, offering alternatives and solutions and influencing those who have formal power and legitimacy to effect social changes,

we are addressing this

INITIATIVE

to the representatives of the legislative, executive and judiciary powers, political parties, University of Montenegro, trade unions, media and other civil society organisations, business sector and the entire Montenegrin public

to engage in the necessary measures and activities in the following areas:

The State and the Constitution of the Republic of Montenegro

- We appeal to all the political parties and social actors to endorse publicly, but also in their programmes and political platforms, the results of the referendum held on the state-status of Montenegro as legal and legitimate.
- We urge the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro to efficiently and entirely implement the recommendations of the European Commission and to express their full dedication to the process of European Integrations in Montenegro,
- We urge the Presidents of the Parliament and Government of Montenegro to open the process of defining the new Constitution for adequate participation of political parties, University of Montenegro, and civil society organisations,

- Starting from the fact that the current strategies of each sector are limited to their respective goals and are lacking harmonization, we appeal to the Government of Montenegro to create a comprehensive National Development Plan (NDP) as soon as possible, which would represent an integrated vision for Montenegro, stressing the need to accompany the economic reforms with democracy, overall social development and decrease of social tensions. We particularly stress the necessity to set, within the NDP, a long-term plan for sustainable development in order to protect two most valuable resources of Montenegro – its environment and its people. We urge the Government of Montenegro to open the process of drafting the NDP for participation by both the civil and the business sector.

Democracy and the Rule of Law

- We urge the political parties to revise their programmes to address the current social and economic problems, to offer their view on the solutions of these problems and to give their contribution to the creation of wide social consensus with respect to the overall development of Montenegro and its road towards European integrations,
- We call upon the political parties to acknowledge, without reservations, the importance of the role of non-governmental organisations for the promotion of democracy and the culture of human and minority rights in Montenegro,
- We call upon the University of Montenegro, students and student organisations and groups to open up the University of Montenegro for intellectual debates on all social issues and concerns,
- We appeal to both the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro to enable all necessary organisational, technical and financial conditions for a free, independent, responsible, and effective functioning of the Council for Civic Control of the Police,
- We call upon all the political parties, the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro, as well as the religious communities, to approach, in good faith, consensus-building on the new Law on religious communities, which would regulate the legal status of all religious communities, the legal security of their property and the freedom of religious practice,
- We urge the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro to prepare and adopt the Law on Transparency and Prevention of Media Concentration in the sectors of printed and electronic media,
- We demand urgent changes of the Law on Public Broadcasting Services “Radio Montenegro” and “Television Montenegro”, in order to secure as quickly as possible strong guarantees of the independence of the RTCG Council and genuine representation of the broadest Montenegrin public,
- We call upon the public broadcasting service of the RTCG to initiate, through its programmes, regular shows which would involve a broad circle of political, social and academic subjects, in order to promote intellectual debate on the burning political, economic, social and other issues,

- We appeal to the private media to strengthen critical, research journalism and thus give their full contribution to the fight against corruption and organised crime, as well as to the public accountability of the civil servants.

Human Rights and Minority Rights

- We urge the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and other relevant bodies to apply in full extent all international and national standards regarding the protection of human and minority rights, enhance participation of the minorities in public service, and contribute to the creation of a sustainable and widely accepted vision of multiculturalism in Montenegro, contributing to the positive interaction of ethnic groups in Montenegro,
- We appeal to the Government of the Republic of Montenegro to devote itself in a concrete manner to the inclusion of disabled in the Montenegrin society, especially in terms of financial stimulation and support to the education and employment of this marginalised group, as well as to legally and financially stimulate and support adaptation of physical environment to the needs of this population in line with the European standards,
- We appeal to the Government of the Republic of Montenegro to devote itself in a concrete manner to the inclusion of Roma in the Montenegrin society, especially in terms of financial stimulation and support to the education and employment of the representatives of this ethnic group,
- We urge all social actors to engage in the process of facing with the past, and we appeal to the relevant judiciary bodies to conclude efficiently all the cases concerning deportation of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, as well as Strpci and Bukovica cases,
- We urge the Government of the Republic of Montenegro to devote itself in a more intensive manner to the solution of problem and securing rights of the refugees and displaced persons in accordance with international standards.

Good governance

- We urge the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro to make the process of the creation of the national budget open for the civil society organizations and to provide the relevant information in a way that it would be available and understandable for the entire public,
- We call upon the judicial bodies and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Montenegro to apply, consistently and efficiently, the Law on Courts, especially insofar as it concerns random assignation of cases, functioning of the Administrative Bureau, accountability of the Presidents of Courts and the right of the Ministry of Justice to oversee the workings of the courts,
- We call upon the Government of Montenegro to dedicate the maximum of its efforts to implementation of the Action Plan for Fight against Corruption and

- Organised Crime, and to adopt/implement as soon as possible the Law on Public Procurements, Law on the Conflict of Interests, Law on the Financing of the Political Parties, and to urge the adoption of a Law on State Electoral Commission,
- We urge the Government of the Republic of Montenegro to begin with profound reforms of the Agency for National Security (ANS), and we appeal to the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro to exploit to the maximum its right to monitor the work of the ANS, as well as to prepare and adopt a Law on Access to Dossiers which are kept with ANS,
 - We urge the Government and the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro to prepare/adopt a Law on the Protection of Personal Data and a Law on State Secret, in order to implement as efficiently as possible the Law on Free Access to Information,
 - We urge the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and the authorities of local self-governments to work towards consensus on the further steps in implementing genuine and sustainable decentralization of competences,
 - We call upon the Government of the Republic of Montenegro to start implementing its commitments from the document on the bases of cooperation with non-governmental organisations, to appoint coordinators for cooperation with NGOs on the level of both the Government of the Republic of Montenegro and the public administration bodies, and to prepare and adopt a Strategy on Relations with NGOs.

Sustainable development and social cohesion

- We appeal to the Government of Montenegro as well as to the local self-governments to devote themselves entirely and through an active social policy to fight against poverty and social inclusion of the vulnerable groups, in accordance with the previously endorsed commitments set forth in the Strategy for Development and Poverty Reduction, and to work for the more paced regional development of Montenegro,
- We urge the Government of Montenegro and the local self-governments to dedicate their full attention to the best interests of the state of Montenegro and its citizens in protecting the natural resources, and to implement in their entirety principles of sustainable development, introducing new, and strengthening the existing regulations on the implementation of ecological standards,
- We appeal to the Government of Montenegro and trade unions to start drafting Law on Trade Unions that will accomplish to the genuine pluralisation and better effects of trade union organisations,
- We appeal for the creation of a Law on Transparency in Privatisation, which would guarantee genuine transparency in all privatisation contracts, disclosing the ownership of the companies participating in the privatisation, and preventing unknown companies from participating in the privatisation of Montenegrin enterprises,

- We urge all the private companies and entrepreneurs to endorse the concept of social responsibility of their enterprises in increasing their participation the activities regarding charity and development, increase the quality and responsibility in their treatment of the employees, the environment, and the community in which they operate.

On their behalf, the signatories of this Initiative oblige to commit the maximum of their human and intellectual resources in contributing to the fulfillment of the above stated goals, both in cooperation with the relevant actors, as well as through monitoring of the results achieved and issuing recommendations for their improvement.

Centre for Development of non-governmental organisations (CDNGOs), Centre for Civic Education (CCE), European Movement in Montenegro (EMiM), Centre for Monitoring (CEMI), Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM), Fondation for Roma Scholarship (FRS), Youth Cultural Centre Juventas, Almanah, association and magazine for reasearch, presentation and protection of cultural and historical heritage of Bosniaks/Muslims of Montenegro, SOS telephones for women and children victims of violence – Podgorica, NGO Bonum, European Law Student's Association in Montenegro (ELSA), NGO Bonum, Green Home, Association of Political Scientists of Montenegro, Union of blind people of Montenegro, Association of Paraplegics of Montenegro, »Matica Muslimanska«, Fondation Open Society Institute, Representative Office Montenegro (FOSI ROM)