

Dear readers,

This is the sixth and at the same time the last issue of R-INFO newsletter.

Approaching of the referendum day announced for May 21 brings in considerable tensions in everyday life of citizens. During previous week there were frequent instances of public manifestation of political convictions by supporters of both blocks. Intensified tensions make atmosphere in Montenegro unpleasant.

CEMI observers' report confirms that the work of the RRC proceeded in calm atmosphere and in accordance with legal deadlines. Members of the RRC held two meetings at which technical issues, number and distribution of ballot papers were decided on.

In accordance with Law on referendum and legal deadlines all local commissions for referendum instituted the composition of voting boards. During previous week voting boards also finished the counting of printed ballot papers in presence of all CEMI observers and members. CEMI observers paid special attention to citizens' objections to registration in voting roll. Most of the objections were directed to police compartments and local secretary's offices in charge of issuing of necessary documents and forwarding of complaints to Administrative court.

Last week was of great importance for the campaigns of both political blocks. A number of unpleasant situations such as destruction of promotional material of reverse blocks, physical assaults and nationalistic massages marked the monitoring period passed by. CEMI observers registered a few incidents within the domain of criminal legislature. Therefore, CEMI points out, all leaders should use their personal authority in order to prevent possible creation of serious conflicts. CEMI also points out the importance of State organs that are obliged in accordance with law to prevent every form of violence and confrontation in order to enable regular conditions for the proceeding of referendum without consequences for the citizens of Montenegro.

Extract from report on monitoring of CEMI observers can be found on the following pages.

Redaction

IN BRIEF

CEMI

CEMI expects to be able to announce final assessment of referendum result between 21:30 and 22:00. On May 21 press conferences are appointed for 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00 and 21:00.

CEMI presented its report on monitoring the campaign:

Centre for monitoring presented its third weekly report on monitoring the referendum campaign (Page 2,3)

Block for State Union demands two-thirds of ministers to confirm referendum resolution

Leader of block for State Union Zoran Zizic demanded from Constitutional Court to bring into law on referendum an obligation about confirmation of referendum resolution from two-thirds of ministers. Block for independent State of Montenegro asked yesterday the leader of SNP to speak out whether the unionists block stands behind the request of Zizic (Page 2)

MUP finished the comparison of official records with voting rolls

MUP forwarded the results of comparison of official records with voting rolls to Chief prosecutor Vesna Medenica. Medenica will direct the data to Administrative Court competent to decide who will be registered in or removed from voting roll. (Page 2)

Board for media monitoring of referendum process

President of the Board for media monitoring of referendum process Zeljko Rutovic called sixth meeting of the Board. (Page 3)

The Board gets report after the referendum

The Board for financing of referendum campaign will be informed about funds collected and spent for the purposes of campaign after the May 21. (Page 3)

Printing-house 'Obod' got the material for ballot papers

Representatives of separatists and Block for State Union Radojko Djuricanin and Djordjije Ulicevic received the paper imported from Italy for printing of ballot papers.(Page 2,3)

May 07, 2006.**Block for State Union demands two-thirds of ministers to confirm referendum resolution**

Block for State Union demands two-thirds of ministers to confirm referendum resolution, Social-democrats call-over leader of SNP. Leader of block for State Union Zoran Zizic demanded from Constitutional Court to bring into law on referendum an obligation about confirmation of referendum resolution from two-thirds of ministers. Block for independent State of Montenegro asked yesterday the leader of SNP to speak out whether the unionists block stands behind the request of Zizic
(Vijesti, 07.05.2006)

May 07, 2006.**MUP finished the comparison of official records with voting rolls**

MUP forwarded the results of comparison of official records with voting rolls to Chief prosecutor Vesna Medenica. Medenica will direct the data to Administrative Court competent to decide who will be registered in or removed from voting roll. President of RRC Frsntisek Lipka said that the discord between voting roll and ID records is in competence of Chief prosecutor. Political blocks signed the minutes in order to confirm the success of comparison.
(Dan, 09.05.2006)

May 09, 2006.**Miroslav Lajcak met Montenegrin officials**

EU delegate Miroslav Lajcak left Podgorica contented after the meeting with leaders of referendum blocks. Lajcak said at the press conference that he will inform EU ambassadors in Brisel about constructive and fair atmosphere that referendum campaign proceeds in putting forward that his previous visit to Montenegro made him worried. He met leader of Block for preservation of State Union Predrag Bulatovic, leader of Block for independent State of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic and President of SCG Svetozar Marovic in Podgorica.
(Dan, 10.05.2006)

**Week report
on results of monitoring the referendum process**

CEMI observers of referendum process were monitoring work of Republic commission for referendum, its boards for financing of referendum campaign as well as work of media from May 8 to May 14. CEMI observers held numerous meetings with representatives of local authorities for conducting of referendum campaign, with local representatives of both blocks as well as with media reporting on referendum. At the same time CEMI observers were monitoring promotion reunions of both blocks.

Work of referendum commission and administration

Last week report show that the preparations for referendum mostly proceed in accordance with proscribed regulations and Law on referendum. In the period passed by RRC and local commissions for referendum were engaged in organization of referendum day.

Republic commission for referendum

During last week RRC held two meeting deciding on technical issues related to number and printing of ballot papers. Number of ballot papers was determined on the basis of final number of voters together with 3% of reserve papers out of total number. A certain number of bilingual ballots was determined as well : in Podgorica 8 397 bilingual ballots, in Ulcinj 17 117 bilingual ballots and Bar 2 197 bilingual ballots .According to the report on the work of RRC it can be concluded that the body works in accordance with legal deadlines and in calm atmosphere.

Local commissions for referendum

According to law on referendum (pr.6st.3 and pr.15) all local commissions for referendum determined composition of voting boards in legal deadline which is May10, in other words, ten days before referendum day.

Voting boards consist of six members nominated by the principle of equal representation of both referendum options. President and vice chairman of voting board are nominated among members of the board.

After the printing and distribution of ballot papers voting board counted papers in presence of all CEMI observers and members.

Communication of political options with RRC marked as quality and concerning that issue no complaints exist.

Other administration

Concerning the fact that the voting roll got its final form on May 10 at 24 o'clock when the Administrative court made last decision on registration in voting list, CEMI observers were active in period during which citizens could file a complaint related to registration. Most objections were directed to security compartments and local secretary's offices in charge of

issuing the necessary documents and forwarding complaints to Administrative court .Although a large number of citizens were legally registered complaints were directed at the work of bodies in charge of requests for registration in voting roll and dilatory procedure of getting documents.

Conduct of political blocks

During last week political blocks increased the number of reunions in majority of municipalities continuing with 'from door to door campaign'. Campaigns of political blocks entered final phase and intensified tensions are more than evident consequence. Although political leaders avoid in public speech of hatred the more direct conflict between opponents is obvious. Serious incidents in domain of criminal legislature became more frequent. Physical assaults, pressures imposed on citizens, speech of hatred in the streets, and destruction of promotional material marked the previous week. All leaders should use their personal authority in order to prevent serious conflicts. State organs should act in accordance with law and prevent every form of violence and confrontation in order to enable regular conditions for the proceeding of referendum.

References and commentaries

Voting lists- Although there were complaints against the work of bodies in charge of conducting the voting list and issuing necessary documents, after the central voting roll got its final form it was concluded that arranging of voting roll was successful and enabled majority of citizens to use their civil right. Of great importance is the fact that political blocks agreed upon regularity of voting roll and within that domain confirmed regularity of referendum process eliminating possible doubts about correctness of voting roll.

Speech of hatred- Increased frequency of nationalistic messages and speeches of hatred contributes to creation of tense atmosphere in Montenegro. Center for Monitoring appeals to all political leaders and participants in referendum process to prevent creation of hostile atmosphere and give citizens opportunity to express their will democratically.

Incidents- CEMI emphasizes the danger of physical assaults and incidents evident during last week. Center for Monitoring is worried about future happenings concerning the fact that referendum day approaches and supporters of both blocks manifest their political convictions in public using demonstration of force. CEMI suggests to leaders to confine promotion of the ideas within the limits of democratic forms of promotion. CEMI suggests to State organs to be professional and impartial and to prevent and punish all individuals that act against law. Finally, CEMI appeals to all citizens to act in accordance with law and democratic principles contributing that way to the greatest victory of both blocks- peace in Montenegro.

May 09, 2006.

Printing-house 'Obod' got the material for ballot papers

Representatives of separatists and Block for State Union Radojko Djuricanin and Djordjije Ulicevic received the paper imported from Italy for printing of ballot papers. 'Fabian 'paper used for making notes will be used for printing of ballot papers. All members of RRC as well as international observers will monitor the process in printing house 'Obod'. As soon as process is over transfer of ballot papers to presidents and secretars of local referendum commissions should be done.
(Dan, 10.05.2006)

May 09, 2006

Board for media monitoring of referendum process

President of the Board for media monitoring of referendum process Zeljko Rutovic called sixth meeting of the Board. Block for independent State of Montenegro lodged 60 complaints on media monitoring of referendum campaign (26 complaints on reporting of Serbian media: Vecernje novosti, Blic, Nin, Pres, Kurir, TV Pink-Piramida show, 25 complaints on reporting of Dan, 8 complaints for Revija D and one objection to Glas Boke). Block for State Union lodged 10 complaints on TVCG 1 monitoring of referendum process and one objection to Radio CG.
(Pobjeda, 10.05.2006)

May 11, 2006

The Board gets report after the referendum

The Board for financing of referendum campaign will be informed about funds collected and spent for the purposes of campaign after the May 21. If the Board finds out that resources collected and spent exceed the sum regulated by the Law blocks are obliged to return surplus. The Board for financing of referendum process asked from Block for independent State of Montenegro contract made with Telekom related to activating of donor number in order to find out the collected sum. The Board also considered sending a request for contract that separatist block signed with TVCG 1 related to advertising of donor number.
(Dan, 11.05.2006)

May 11, 2006

Voting roll complemented

Voting roll in Montenegro is decided upon on May 11. Up to that time, according to verdict of Administrative court, 4 950 voters were registered. Administrative court announced resolving of remaining complaints related to voting roll registration after which voting roll will be completed. RRC announced that up to April 26 479.523 citizens were registered. (Pobjeda, 12.06.2006)

May 11, 2006

Voting roll complemented

Campaigns of both political blocks are active and calm. Still, there is a certain degree of worry about emergence of negative aspects of both campaigns and verbal assaults against leader politicians, concluded ODIHR in its latest report. (Vijesti, 12.05.2006)

The project "Civic monitoring of the referendum process" is supported by

the Foundation Open Society Institute



Norwegian People's Aid,



the Embassy of Switzerland and



the Embassy of Finland



Referendum May 21, 2006

CEMI accredited 1 500 observers. On May 21 observers will be distributed to every polling site in Montenegro securing thus transparency of referendum process. During all day observers will keep center informed about turnout of voters and eventual irregularities and after closing of polling sites and counting of votes they will inform about results of voting.

On the day of referendum CEMI will parallelly collect data related to turnout of voters and results of voting. The data related to turnout will be collected in seven terms and thus available during the whole day. After closing of polling sites data related to final turnout and results will be collected.

Apart from total review of the results of referendum from every polling site, CEMI will also apply specially designed methodology – partial parallel vote counting. Thanks to specially designed pattern and on the basis of results from a small number of polling sites, CEMI will be able to predict more quickly but with equal accuracy the outcome of referendum.

On May 21 press conferences are appointed for 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00 and 21:00.

CEMI expects to have data necessary for exact assessment of the outcome of referendum between 21:30 and 22:00

Announcements

"Citizens monitoring of referendum process"

During the following week CEMI observers of the pre-referendum campaign (LTO-teams) will continue monitoring of all referendum commissions and boards as well as promotion reunions of both blocks, observing at the same time activities of block leaders and pay special attention on the content and character of their speeches. LTO team will also check voting lists and consider all complaints related to register of citizens. LTO activities include media monitoring as well. Besides, LTO team will organize over fifty trainings for those who observe electoral process on the day of referendum.

Monitoring of financing of referendum campaign

As a part of the project 'Monitoring of financing of referendum campaign' the public will hear about the results of monitoring through CEMI's regular press conference on May 11. CEMI will present findings related to presentation of referendum options in the media: TV stations and printed ones. The estimation of expenses of referendum campaign for both blocks will be presented at the press conference as well.

"Know the system in order to change it"

As a part of the project 'Know the system in order to change it' during the following week CEMI will organize the workshops in high schools in Podgorica, Cetinje, Zabljak, Pljevlja, Ulcinj and Herceg Novi. The first phase of the project will include presentation workshops about legal and political system, authorities and the selection of institutions in the system. Students who will attend CEMI's summer school for peer education are to be chosen by the criterion of diligence and writing an essay 'If I were a mayor I would change...'

"Know the European Union"

As a part of the third phase of the project 'Know the European Union' the peer education on history and institutions of EU continues in high schools. Workshops will take place in Podgorica, Cetinje, Zabljak, Pljevlja, Ulcinj and Herceg Novi. All six EU clubs formed within this project will do a research on European constitution and have a debate on the following subject: EU needs European constitution.