

Subject: Notification of Withdrawal from the REM Council Election Process

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, the proposers and candidates who have consistently pointed out violations of legal procedures and rules throughout this process, hereby inform you that we are withdrawing from further participation in the selection of members of the Council of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media (REM).

This decision comes after not a single one of the 30 objections submitted by legitimate proposers—pointing to serious breaches and misinterpretations of fundamental legal provisions—was upheld. At the session of the Committee for Culture and Information held on 6 June 2025, an official decision was made to disregard the Law on Electronic Media and to accept all unlawful proposers and candidates. Despite two additional Committee sessions held on 9 and 11 June, the objections were not considered.

Through an accelerated procedure, the National Assembly and the Committee have carried out a series of actions contrary to the law, legal standards, and the principles of public interest:

- Although the Committee itself stated in official documents that certain proposers and candidates do not meet legal requirements, it chose to ignore these findings and include all candidates on the list—even those who failed to submit the additional documentation previously requested by the Committee.
- At the same time, those of us who insisted on legality have been subjected to unfounded accusations and challenges, with procedural maneuvers used to create a false appearance of “balance” between lawful and unlawful participants in the process.
- The Committee’s decisions are based on arbitrary and questionable interpretations of the law, including the claim that print media with a website are automatically electronic media, that persons aged 15–18 are not minors, and that the practice of traditional crafts can be considered child protection. Despite requests for authentic legal interpretation of these terms, the Committee refused to wait for such clarification before finalizing the candidate list.
- The next phase of the election process, involving harmonization around candidates, will inevitably lead to the election of unlawful candidates by illegitimate proposers, resulting in an illegally composed REM Council.
- Efforts to expose procedural violations were portrayed as pressure on institutions, and in parliamentary debates were presented as obstacles to European integration, the opening of Cluster 3, progress in the Reform Agenda, and the implementation of ODIHR recommendations.

This logic completely distorts the meaning of reform and the process of European integration. If Serbia’s path to the EU is possible only by violating its own laws—we cannot and will not be complicit in such a process.

The independence and autonomy of REM is not an administrative formality or a subject of political negotiation. It is a prerequisite for respecting the fundamental rights of Serbian citizens: the right to freedom of expression, protection of children, protection from abuse and persecution of dissenters, prevention of hate speech, and the safeguarding of genuine media

pluralism. REM exists to serve citizens' rights—not to fulfill political goals, international commitments, or simulate reforms for the sake of European integration.

One does not enter the European Union by bypassing laws, ignoring norms, and striking political compromises between legal and illegal actions—but only by applying the law, upholding the rule of law, and protecting institutional integrity. Any deviation from this undermines the very essence of the European Union and, more importantly, jeopardizes the fundamental democratic principles in the Republic of Serbia.

We recall that this repeated election process was initiated after two weeks of student and citizen-led protests demanding the formation of this independent body in accordance with the law. In view of all of the above, we consider the process led by the National Assembly legally and politically meaningless. We hereby confirm our withdrawal from further participation in a process that violates the laws of the Republic of Serbia.

Respectfully,

**Proposers:**

- ANEM (Association of Independent Electronic Media)
- Association for Musical Arts – Music Art Project
- Association for Support to Children and Persons with Disabilities and Their Families “Realno”
- Association of Dramatic Artists of Serbia
- Association of the Šumadija Center for Civic Activism – RES PUBLICA
- Association Užice Center for Human Rights and Democracy
- Association “I Have an Idea”
- Association “Let It Be Known!”
- Association “Support to the Family SIDRO”
- Association “Zlatibor Circle”
- ASTRA – Anti-Trafficking Action
- Autonomous Women’s Center
- Balkan Investigative Reporting Network – BIRN
- Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
- Belgrade Centre for Security Policy – BCBP
- Belgrade Open School (BOŠ)
- Center for Civic Action
- Center for Creative and Sustainable Development Misturafina
- Center for Creative Development – Knjaževac
- Center for Education Policy
- Center for Knowledge and Skills Production
- Center for Modern Skills
- Center for Social Preventive Activities – GRiG
- Center for Youth Integration – CIM
- Child Rights Centre
- Children’s Aid
- Children’s Center Zaječar
- Citizens' Association “NEXUS – Vranje”

- Citizens' Association "KOKORO" – Bor
- Civic Initiatives
- Community Development Center – LINK
- Creative Pedagogy
- CRTA (Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability)
- DUGA Association
- Feminist Cultural Center – BEFEM
- Forum for Civil Action – FORCA
- Friends of Children of Požarevac Municipality
- Friends of Children of Serbia
- Friends of Children of the City of Niš
- Friends of Children of the Municipality of Indija
- Friends of Children of the Municipality of Surčin
- Friends of Children of Zvezdara
- Group for Children and Youth "Indigo"
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
- Human Rights House Belgrade
- Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia – NUNS
- Initiative for the Rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities – MDRI-S
- Journalists' Association of Serbia – UNS
- Klara and Rosa
- KROKODIL Association
- Labris – Organization for Lesbian and Human Rights
- Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights
- Local Democracy Agency – LDA
- MAŠTA Group, Prijepolje
- Media and Reform Center Niš
- National Parent-Teacher Association of Serbia – NARNS
- Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia – MODS
- NGO Atina
- NGO Praxis
- NGO Svetionik
- Niš Committee for Human Rights
- Novi Sad School of Journalism
- Okular
- Partners for Democratic Change Serbia
- Polekol – Ecology and Law
- SHARE Foundation
- Slavko Ćuruvija Foundation
- Sombor Educational Center
- UG Libero
- Užice Center for the Rights of the Child
- Women's Association of the Kolubara District – ŽUKO
- Women's Association "Peščanik"

**Candidates:**

Antonela Riha  
Dubravka Valić Nedeljković  
Dušan Aleksić  
Đorđe Vlajić  
Gordana Predić  
Irina Milutinović  
Ivan Lalić  
Jelka Jovanović  
Mileva Malešić  
Rodoljub Šabić  
Tatjana Jordović Nikolić  
Željko Hubač