



MONTENEGRINS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IN KOSOVO

6 May 2010

At the request of President Fatmir Sejdiu, the Government of Kosovo has initiated the process of amending the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities and their Members in Kosovo ('Law on Communities'), with the aim of granting official recognition to the Montenegrin community in Kosovo (Government Decision, 27 April 2010).

In February of last year, the Montenegrin community obtained a seat on the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) under Article 6(e) of the Council Statute, which secures the right of 'other' non-majority communities to participate in the body.*

In July, the CCC established a Working Group on the Montenegrin Community, which initiated discussions with the relevant state authorities to amend Article 1(4) of the Law on Communities, identifying the Montenegrin community in express terms, and Article 12(6), to provide for reserved membership for the Montenegrin community on the Council. This process was undertaken with the support of the International Civilian Office (ICO) and ECMI Kosovo. With this latest decision by the Government, the formal procedure for amending the law is now well underway.

The Montenegrin community is currently represented in the Council by Ms Snezana Karadzić, from the civil society organisation **Komitet Žena**.

* At present, the Law on Communities only recognises the Serb, Bosniak, Gorani, Turk, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in express terms.