

Statement for Transparent Parliamentary Appointments,

As representatives of nongovernmental organizations,

Having taken into account the significant failures of the 42nd National Assembly with the appointments of the management of state public institutions

Noting with deep concerns that the 43rd National Assembly cannot contrive overcoming the deficits of its predecessor in regard to some scandalous appointments

Analyzing the problematic implementation of the constitutive powers of the National Assembly over the leadership bodies of public institutions,

We emphatically do not accept any attempts for backdoor, party, economic or other non-transparent bargains that contradict the public interest,

We realize that the chairpersons of oversight and regulatory bodies, appointed by the National Assembly, take decisions for the functioning of entire social systems,

Therefore

Led by the belief that actual democracy is achieved through the implementation of the principles of good governance, rule of law, high professionalism and ethics,

And the meaning of transparency is to ensure public control over integrity, and

Civic society can be a genuine corrective of public processes and work proactively for imposing the above-pointed principles

BY THIS STATEMENT WE

1. Declare our willingness for mutual cooperation with members of parliament to institute to the highest degree transparent and objective procedures for appointment of high state officials which shall guarantee authentic competition, competitive environment and an election based on the qualities of the candidates;
2. Expect from the National Assembly to proactively work when conducting appointment procedures while carrying out conditions and mechanisms for timely and comprehensive awareness of society and stakeholders, namely

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by – announcing in advance and in reasonable timeframes the expiring mandates; the intentions and the terms for appointing new members or chair of single/collective bodies.

3. Consider as positive the incorporation, for the first time, of section “Ethical Values” in the Rules of Procedures of the National Assembly and in the meanwhile we think that they should be further elaborated and detached into a single Code of ethics of the Member of Parliament.
4. Insist for the establishment of high standards for vetting the integrity and professional qualities of the candidates for the highest managerial positions in the system of public state authorities.
5. Recall that the Rules of Procedures of the National Assembly foresee normative mechanisms for in-depth vetting of the candidates;
6. Violating these norms sends a very wrong signal to the society and demonstrate disregard to the rule of law;
7. Reckon that ensuring of sufficient time for a profound verification (no less than three months) of the professional and ethic qualities is a key element of the content of the procedures;
8. Declare that we will continue to monitor the work of the National Assembly in regard to the appointments and inform the public about any irregularities related to this activity.
9. We are ready to engage in initiatives coming from the National Assembly and directed towards shortening the distance between the legislature power and the civil society, and setting of a genuine partner relationship;
10. Call upon the National Assembly to conduct, on every upcoming election, a structured public debate on the candidates and the institution they will chair or be part of for every forthcoming appointment.

11. As part of the civil society we will also work for the building of a new attitude towards the parliamentary appointment procedures, based on information and objectivity, irrespective of the political conjuncture.

We are convinced that this is the only way possible to achieve sustainable affirmation of the rule of law in Bulgaria.

The current statement is a result of the mutual efforts of the Bulgarian Institute for legal Initiatives and representatives of other nongovernmental organizations to build an attitude of irreconcilability towards nepotism and non-compliance with the law and principles of good and transparent governance when appointing people for the key positions in the state governance.

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