



**Lawyers'
Committee for
Human Rights**



**HEINRICH
BÖLL
STIFTUNG
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Information on panel discussion

The panel discussions will be held as part of the project "Inclusion of Citizens in Social and Political Life through the Right to Petition and Submit Recommendations," with support from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia.

The project's main goal is advocating citizens' participation in political life and their direct involvement in the decision-making process on all levels of public authority by adopting necessary legislation and establishing an effective mechanism for the regulation of the right to petitions and recommendations.

The research of the legal regulations that govern the realization of these constitutional rights was conducted and 5 workshops were organized with representatives of nongovernmental organizations, unions and the broader public in Belgrade, Niš, Preševo, Kragujevac and Novi Sad. It was concluded that there is no legal framework which regulates these rights, as well as that the practice of acting upon the citizens' petitions and recommendations shows a high level of ignoring this right by the public authorities.

The goal of the panel discussion is creating a constructive dialogue between representatives of public authorities and the citizens about the models of realization of the constitutional right to submit petitions and recommendations.

A constructive dialogue would remove only some of the existing confusions:

- **whether public authorities have procedures that regulate responses to petitions and other recommendations;**
- **what are the experiences of public authorities concerning petitions and other recommendations**
- **what are the main obstacles for providing replies to petitions and recommendations.**

Relevant opinions and recommendations gathered during the panel discussions will be used for preparing necessary alterations of the legislation. All participants of the panel discussions will be important figures on the road to the improvement of a very important democratic procedure in Serbia and will in this way actively participate in its democratic reforms.

Please find attached the Agenda of the panel discussion.



AGENDA

Panel Discussion

PETITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

June 15th 2010
Hotel IN, Belgrade

10.45 - 11.00	Arrival of the participants
11.00 – 11.05	Foreword – Goals of Panel Discussion Milan Antonijevic, executive director of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights-YUCOM
11.05 – 11.20	The Committee's proposals and recommendations - future working methods Sasa Dujovic, MP, Chairman of the Committee on Petitions and Recommendations National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
11.20 – 11.30	<i>Development tendencies of instruments of direct democracy in EU countries and the region – law and practice</i> Wolfgang Klotz, President of Heinrich Boell Foundation for Southeastern Europe
11.30 - 11.45	Experiences of members of the National Assembly of Serbia with the petition and recommendations of citizens Vesna Pesic, member of Parliament
11.45 – 11.55	Law and practice in Serbia Katarina Jozić, YUCOM
11.55 – 12.05	Research and presentation of the site www.uticaj.rs Novak Vuco, YUCOM and Nina Durdevic-Filipovic, Heinrich Boll Foundation
12.00 – 12.20	Coffee break
12.20 - 12.50	Discussion Moderator: Milan Antonijević, YUCOM
12.50 – 13.00	Conclusions
13.00 – 13.30	Lunch



The panel discussion is organized as part of the project by YUCOM and the Heinrich Boell Foundation Bel „**Inclusion of Citizens in Social and Political Life through Advocating the Right to Petition and Submit Recommendations.**“ which is realized with the financial help of the European Union.

Contents of this document represent the sole responsibility of YUCOM and the Heinrich Boell Foundation and in no way mirror the standpoints of the European Union



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