

Strasbourg, January 6, 2024

## **GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO**

Office of the Representative of Montenegro before the European Court of Human Rights

*n/a Mrs. Valentina Pavličić, Representative*

Dear Representative Pavličić,

I am writing to take the opportunity to provide my views on your work as Representative for Montenegro before the European Court of Human Rights.

As you are aware, I was the judge elected in respect of Albania at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg when you were elected as the Representative in 2015. Since 2021, I sit as a judge in the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Hercegovina. During both my tenure as a Strasbourg judge, and now as a judge in BiH, we have had many of opportunities to cooperate.

Your work and effort on the implementation of European standards and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights has been of great importance not just for Montenegro, but for whole region of the Western Balkans.

As the Representative for Montenegro before the European Court of Human Rights and head of the Office of the Representative of Montenegro, you have participated in numerous activities organised by the Court and the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg, which are dedicated to protecting human rights and freedoms, and strengthening the rule of law, both in Montenegro and in the Western Balkans region.

As part of our joint cooperation, we have both lectured and participated in round table discussions, seminars, and workshops. In particular, I would like to emphasise your active participation in the Regional Annual Rule of Law Forum, organised by the AIRE Centre and Civil Rights Defenders, and which I have formed a part of setting up. This year, the event celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and for many years we have been extremely grateful to you for your contributions to this high-profile event, in terms of participating in discussions and reporting on views from working groups.

Besides this, we have co-authored a number of publications and articles on the subject of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, in relation to both Montenegro and other countries in the region.

Considering the number of very successful projects and activities on which we have worked together, I would like to conclude by emphasising your dedication to sharing your knowledge and practice as the Representative for Montenegro in the field of education and spreading awareness about Convention law and other relevant international standards.

Your role is of the greatest importance for assuring a better protection of human rights in Montenegro and the region, in terms of strengthening the application of international standards and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights, and therefore ensuring legal security and protecting the rule of law at the national level.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ledi Bianku', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Ledi Bianku**

Judge of the Constitutional Court in BiH and former judge of ECtHR