

DEMANDS OF THE #1in5 MILLION PROTESTERS

THE PRESIDENT

excluded from campaigning on behalf of any electoral list

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Resignations owing to the responsibility for the decline of media freedom and decay of the media system

REM

Members of the Council must be relieved of their posts due to non-fulfillment of legal obligations

RTS and RTV

Equal access to different views on important social issues

SUPERVISORY BODIES

More active implementation of existing regulations and more effective use of their authority

RIK, MDULS and PUBLIC PROSECUTORS OFFICE

More active implementation of existing regulations and more effective use of their authority

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DEMANDS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

1. The Ministry to actively participate in the creation and implementation of media public policies, monitor and inform the public and the National Assembly about the implementation of the legislation, and propose regulations in areas where negative trends are noticed throughout the entire media system (including printed, electronic and online media)
2. In accordance with its legal obligation, the Ministry should monitor the work of the media, and identify problems, such as: undue media concentration at the local, as well as the national level, threats to pluralism, excessive commercialization, tabloidization, safety of journalists.
3. The Ministry should develop effective mechanisms to enable public funding only for content that serves the public interest (media that do not violate the code of responsible journalism, clear criteria for quality assessment, reports on the special-purpose spending of the funds, and monitoring the funds are spend in accordance with the criteria of open competition).

REM – UNTIL THE NEW COUNCIL IS ELECTED

1. A dismissal procedure against the members of the Council should be initiated due to negligent fulfillment of their legal obligations, inactive implementation of their legal authority to monitor the work of broadcasters, non-enforcement of measures, a passive attitude towards dominant increase of programming detrimental to the public interest and media pluralism
2. An effective procedure to elect new members of the REM Council should be initiated, with reference to existing procedure, deadlines, and with consideration of the demands made by the participants of the #1in5 million protest—to elect members who meet high professional requirements and are proven advocates of freedom of expression.

REM – THE NEW COUNCIL

3. Until the next election is held, every three months REM should supervise and publish analytical reports on the news programs of RTS and RTV, and one report on the programs of other national broadcasters
4. REM should launch various forms of public and professional debates regarding everyday and election reporting by public and other broadcasters, in order to gather proposals on how to better protect the public interest in electronic media.
5. REM should adopt a Rulebook on News Programing Standards that will be binding for all news broadcasters, based on all features and remarks put forward in previous research reports and expert discussions. This Rulebook should prevent smear campaigns and hate speech, and stop the decay of standards of objectivity, independence, and accountability of the media. It should also establish a specific set of standards for public broadcasters.
6. REM should adopt a new Rulebook regulating the conduct of media in elections, with precise obligations for all types of broadcasters and programs. This Rulebook should prevent the misuse of public office and resources for the purposes of promoting certain election participants, as well as limit the time for paid political advertising per participant, since these two are seen as the most profound sources of inequality in reaching out to voters.
7. During the election campaign, REM should monitor the conduct of the media and publish the results of the national broadcasters' monitoring once a week. The monitoring of the work of local broadcasters should be performed according to an annual plan.
8. Until the next election is held, every six months the National Assembly should organize public hearings on the work of REM.

RTS AND RTV

1. Until the next election is held, every three months REM should publish results of comprehensive analysis of the RTS and RTV news programs with particular consideration to public interest and independent editorial policy.
2. Program Councils of the public broadcasters examine the reports of REM in open sessions and make recommendations to improve their respective news programs in accordance with the findings of these reports.
3. RTS and RTV should adopt self-regulatory document, Reporting Guidelines, with clear instructions on how to fulfill their legal obligations of thorough and impartial reporting, reflecting political pluralism and presentation of confronted views in everyday programs, and during the election period.
4. Based on the best practices of public broadcasters in Europe, RTS and RTV should introduce new debate broadcasts on issues of major concern to citizens, ensuring the exchange of relevant opposing views.

SUPERVISORY BOARD

1. A Supervisory Board should be formed as a non-executive body in order to oversee the conduct of all electoral actors (electoral lists, media, state bodies), in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Election of Members of Parliament

ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY

1. The Anti-Corruption Agency should adopt bylaws that indicate clearly those sorts of public resources, rallies, and meetings that cannot be used by public officials to promote political entities.
2. The Agency should immediately react to any violation of Article 29 by initiating the relevant ex officio procedure and issuing a warning as soon as possible.
3. During the election campaign, the Anti-Corruption Agency should publish public reports about the field monitoring of the election campaign every two weeks.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

1. All records on the operations and conduct of polling boards should be published
2. All subsequent changes to the records on the operation of the polling boards should be prohibited
3. Training, testing, and compulsory certification should be a prerequisite for performing duties as a permanent member of the polling board.
4. Change the existing provisions and make it mandatory for the president and deputy to be persons employed in public administration
5. Fines should be imposed if the records contain irregularities.
6. The processing of results should be broadcasted live on the Republic Electoral Commission's website
7. The work of the Republic Electoral Commission must be more transparent

PRESURE ON VOTERS

1. The current provisions according to which even ballots containing comments, codes, etc. can be considered valid must be changed
2. More precise prohibitions must be introduced regarding the use of mobile phones at polling stations. The existing fines for violating such prohibition should be larger, and incarceration should also be introduced as a form of punishment
3. It should be prescribed by law that it is prohibited to create lists, apart from official records, of the voters turning out to vote. Fines and incarceration provisions should be introduced as sanctions for the offenders
4. The existing provision forbidding persons who have no rights and duties regarding the carrying out of elections to linger at the polling station should be broadened to include not only the polling station, but also a 50-meter radius from the polling station. Imprisonment for offenders must be introduced by law
5. Article 19 of the Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers should be amended to include violations of electoral rights
6. RIK should launch a comprehensive campaign aimed at educating voters regarding voting procedures, the importance of voting secrecy, the prohibition against confiscation or concealment of ballots, as well as regarding legal mechanisms that protect voters from pressure
7. The public prosecutor's office should issue a call for reporting abuses and criminal offenses against electoral rights and outing witness protection.

ELECTORAL ROLL

1. The single electoral roll should be compared with the data from the Ministry for Internal Affairs and other state institutions
2. Field monitoring should be conducted on an appropriate sample to determine the accuracy and veracity of the electoral register
3. Parts of the data from the electoral register should be published
4. The total number of registered voters in the electoral roll should be published—including voters who reside abroad, and voters registered as internally displaced persons
5. The public should be regularly informed about changes made to the electoral roll
6. Frequent trainings should be organized for the employees who are tasked with updating the electoral register. The supervision of the persons handling the electoral register should be improved, penalty provisions should be consistently applied.
7. Following the elections, access to the election register and other documents should be permitted for each registered voter