

Press review: 20th of August, 2010

Turkish officials exercise pressure on business organizations ahead of referendum. Meanwhile, Macedonian media is serving the interests of power. Elsewhere, Burundi slashes number of MPs eligible to form parliamentary group. In addition, Ghana calls for gender sensitive constitution, while Cameroon is fighting corruption in higher education.

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Enlargement, European Neighbourhood

Turkey referendum campaign takes nasty turn

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdoğan has warned Turkey's largest business organisation, TÜSİAD that it risks "elimination" if it fails to take a stance on the country's referendum on constitutional change, to be held on 12 September. Erdoğan called on the Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association, to say whether it is for or against the government's proposed constitutional amendments.

TÜSİAD rejected any kind of pressure and tutorship over the free will of individuals and stated that Erdoğan's pressure on the business world had no place in modern democracies. Opposition leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu said the amendments would result in the politicisation of the judiciary and a separation in society. CHP also sees the proposed reform as a way of allowing the AKP to keep its officials safe from prosecution for corruption, as well as strengthening the positions of the ruling party ahead of next year's parliamentary elections. Apparently concerned by the nasty turn the debate has taken ahead of the referendum, Turkish President Abdullah Gül warned political leaders to watch their manners while campaigning.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/turkey-referendum-campaign-takes-nasty-turn-news-496981>

Macedonian media – a muddle serving the interests of power

Lack of transparency in the media is the biggest problem of Macedonia. Cross media ownership of broadcasting stations and newspapers is illegal but it is widely assumed that coalition politicians and close relatives are, at least indirectly, in simultaneous control of print and electronic media anyway. The political parties are not willing to introduce a tighter regime because that would mean they would have to give up valuable power tools. This had led the industry into open crisis.

Macedonian experts agree the problem is first and foremost one of implementation. The president of the Broadcasting Council concedes that a special law on media ownership would be helpful. He also agrees that the most pressing problems in the media sector include political support being bought through government-sponsored advertising and political and economic pressures on journalists. In its annual progress reports on Macedonia, the European Commission regularly pays special attention to the media, criticising it for being subject to political interference. So far, these critical remarks from Brussels have not had any substantial impact on Macedonia itself.

<http://waz.euobserver.com/887/30640>

Development

Burundi slashes number of MPs eligible to form parliamentarian group

The number of MPs needed to set up a parliamentary group in Burundi will drop from 15 to 5 in accordance with the internal rules of Parliament. The ruling National Council for the Defence of Democracy/Force for Defence and Democracy (CNDD-FDD), that won the last parliamentary elections, won 81 out of the 106 seats at Parliament.

The new rules favour particularly the Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU), which obtained only five MPs during the parliamentary elections. The change corresponds to the country's new national policy, aimed at representing minority ethnic groups in institutions.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/burundi-slashes-number-of-mps-eligible-to-form-parliamentarian-group-2010081954693.html>

Cameroon: Fighting corruption in higher education

A four-day workshop on corruption and good governance will take place at the Siantou University Complex in Yaounde on August 23 to 26. The workshop, organised by the International Governance Institute, aims at sensitising lecturers and administrators on corruption and good governance in Cameroonian universities. Participants will be mostly activists and observers from universities of Yaounde.

The efforts of the International Governance institute IGI-Focal Integrity Team Cameroon are directed towards encouraging the government to combat corruption and promote good governance in the country. The workshop is expected to train the participants on the various elements of corruption and the characteristics of good governance in tertiary institutions. The workshop is a follow up project after another workshop organised at the University of Bue.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201008190719.html>

Disadvantaged Groups

Ghana: NETRIGHT calls for gender sensitive constitution

The Network for Women's Rights in Ghana has asked the Constitution Review Commission to ensure that the constitutional proposals that would be submitted to Ghanaians for approval are gender sensitive. The convener of NETRIGHT stated that the basis for their call is the imbalances it finds in the Constitution in respect of gender issues which are prerequisites for good governance.

The representative stressed that there were lapses in the constitution relative to persons with disability and there was no provision on family life except an article on children's right, which was not far enough. The representative also called for the entrenchment of provisions on gender balance and the establishment of a commission on gender equality as obtains in South Africa and Rwanda. The Chairman of the Constitutional Review Commission welcomed the proposals and congratulated NETRIGHT on their good work in working towards gender equality in the country and also for its submissions in calling for amendments to the 1992 Constitution on women and children.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201008180527.html>

Current Calls for proposals:

Dear Member, please find the Current Calls for Proposals below. As no new CfPs have been published today, I am sending you a compiled list of the ones with the closest deadlines.

1. European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Promoting Human Rights and Democratic Reform. Country-Based Support Scheme (CBSS) Egypt 2010 – deadline for submission of proposals:

1 September 2010

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282039965711&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130174>

2. Non State Actors in Development Action in partner countries, Kenya – deadline for submission of **concept notes**: **13 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282039800422&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130380>

3. IPA Info 2009 Civil Society EU Info, Croatia – deadline for submission of proposals: **15 September 2010**.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282038450582&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130345>

4. Building Capacities of CSOs for implementing Innovative Social Service Delivery Programmes in the Areas of Special State Concern, Croatia- deadline for submission of proposals: **21 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282214268224&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=2&aoref=130189>