

STATEMENT OF UBU "NEZAVISNOST"

The parliamentary elections scheduled for January 21 will certainly neither conduce to stabilizing the political nor the economic and social circumstances in Serbia. This will be another redistribution of the trophy, called Serbia. While citizens in democratic states participate on a regular basis in placing their interests in the basic functions of the state, they will have an opportunity in Serbia to round off some list on the elections day and to return to the ghetto in which they live.

In contrast to Milosevic's multi-party system, this contemporary system hasn't made a significant progress. It incorporates a clearly recognizable and rather active legacy of that time with sporadic attempts of new democratic forces to get rid of that legacy. When two societies exist next to each other, with distinct and interactive relations, then there is no place for citizens. For this reason, they have been assigned a role – from campaign to campaign, from elections to elections, and promises that cannot be kept, have been made so easily, and one communicates with citizens only through political marketing, and there is no responsibility for the promises made.

The UBU "Nezavisnost" experienced such temptations of directed and steered democracy several times in the last 15 years. At one time, when signing pre-election agreements, they were even deceived, but they learned from this that the present Serbian politicians really do not want to share anything with citizens. Serbia is a fief for them, which is redistributed, in certain, uneven cycles, among political aristocrats, stage sets in front of which they take a picture of themselves, a worthless concept they will utilize whenever they feel a need.

The expectations from such political elite that it will refuse to take a trophy and turn themselves to the interests of those who elected them, is still within the sphere of naive optimism. Serbia, serving its citizens, is an expensive state and then there is little left for plunder, and this is the most important thing today. However, one should give another

chance to parties and coalitions to free themselves this time from a strong embrace of legacy from the past and attend to building a democratic, European Serbia. In that job, it will always have in us a consistent and reliable ally and partner, primarily through social dialogue. The offer of UBU "Nezavisnost" is clearer this time than it has ever been: parliamentary elections scheduled for January 21, should be the last at which the past or the future are offered alternatively, especially because a greater part of our future is already past right along.

Belgrade, January 16, 2007

LEADING COMMITTEE OF UBU "NEZAVISNOST"