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Key updates on the procedure of appointing new REM Council:

- The Committee for Culture and Information, **with the delay of almost 4 months, initiated the procedure of appointing the members of the new REM Council by announcing a public call for proposing candidates** on November 29, 2024.
- Authorized proposers **had a 15-day deadline**, starting from November 29, 2024, to submit their proposals.
- The Committee held two sessions on December 20 and 30, 2024 where **the candidates nominated by nine groups of authorized proposers were confirmed and as of December 30, 2024 all lists of authorized proposers and their candidates were officially published.**
- With the delay of a few days the Committee invited all groups of authorized proposers to a meeting which will be held on January 20, 2025, where each group of authorized proposers will have to reduce its list to two candidates to be jointly proposed by that group of authorized proposers.
- In the following period, after the joint proposal is decided upon, the Committee **will carry out interviews with each candidate.** The joint **proposal will reach the plenary session of the National Assembly** at which the final decision on one candidate before each group of authorized proposers will be reached by the majority of the total number of the MPs.

In the text below a tabular diagram of the procedure for appointing members of the REM Council has been presented. The step reached in the procedure as of the date of the report's update is highlighted in pale red.

Procedure for electing members of the Council of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media

According to the new [Law on Electronic Media](#) (in force since November 4, 2023), the REM Council consists of nine members (Article 10). One member is elected based on the proposal from each of the following authorized proposers:

1. **The Ombudsman, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, and the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection;**

2. **Accredited universities in the Republic of Serbia;**
3. **Associations of electronic media publishers in the Republic of Serbia,** whose members hold at least 30 licenses for providing audio and audiovisual media services and have been registered for at least three years before the public call;
4. **Associations of journalists in the Republic of Serbia,** where each has at least 300 members who pay membership dues and have been registered for at least three years before the public call;
5. **Associations of film, stage, and dramatic artists, as well as composer associations in the Republic of Serbia,** provided they have been registered for at least three years before the public call;
6. **Associations whose goals include the promotion of freedom of expression,** provided they have been registered for at least three years before the public call and have completed at least three projects in this area in the last three years;
7. **Associations whose goals include the protection of children** provided they have been registered for at least three years before the public call and have completed at least three projects in this area in the last three years;
8. **National councils of national minorities;**
9. **Churches and religious communities.**

Announcement of the public call for nominations

The nomination process begins when the Parliamentary Culture and Information Committee publishes a public call for candidates.

The Committee must do this no earlier than six months and no later than three months before the expiration of the mandate of a Council member¹; or within 15 days of the termination of the mandate due to death, dismissal, or resignation.

The mandate of the current Council members will end on November 4, 2024, according to Article 126 of the Law on Electronic Media. The same article stipulates that new members must be elected before November 4, 2024. Therefore, the earliest date for the Committee to issue a call for nominations was May 4, 2024, and the latest was August 4, 2024.

The mandate of Judita Popović ended in June 2023. According to the old Law on Electronic Media, a call for nominations should have been issued 15 days after the expiration of her mandate, but this did not happen, so this position will also be filled in accordance with the new Law.

If the Committee follows past parliamentary practice, it will issue a single call for the nomination of all nine members. It is important to note that each authorized proposer can

¹ The term "termination of mandate" will generally refer to the expiration of the period for which a member was elected. However, it is certain that the termination of the mandate by operation of law, as foreseen in the transitional provisions of the new Law on Electronic Media (Article 126), can also be considered a situation to which this legal deadline for announcing the call for nominations should apply.

nominate candidates only for the one position in the Council for which they are eligible to propose.²

Candidate nomination procedure³

Important! The procedure is separate for each of the 9 "groups" of proposers. Each "group" of proposers goes through all of these steps.

Procedure for the Election of Council Members (Articles 13 and 14 of the Law on Electronic Media)		
Stage of Election	Authority	Deadline
Public call for candidate nomination	Culture and Information Committee	No earlier than 6 months and no later than 3 months before the end of the Council member's mandate , or no later than 15 days after the early termination of a mandate
Submission of a justified proposal of two candidates for Council membership and proof of eligibility	Authorized proposer or an organization that is part of a group that collectively forms a single authorized proposer, with each proposer submitting a justified proposal of two candidates to the Council	15 days from the date of the public call
Establishment of the list of candidates for Council membership and the list of organizations that collectively form a single authorized proposer	Relevant office of the National Assembly	7 days from the deadline for submitting candidate proposals Exceptionally, this deadline can be extended to 15 days if the authorized proposer is given additional time to adjust their proposal or provide proof of eligibility.
Setting the date for determining the joint proposal of two candidates for Council membership	Culture and Information Committee	Within 7 days of publishing the list of candidates and the list of organizations
Providing the organizations that		

² For example, the Ombudsman, the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, and the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality cannot propose candidates for the member elected on the proposal of the national councils of national minorities, and vice versa.

³ The estimated duration from the announcement of the public call to the completion of the public interview is at most 59 days and at least 39 days. After that, a plenary session is scheduled.

collectively form a single authorized proposer with space to hold a meeting to determine the joint candidate proposal	Culture and Information Committee	No more than 7 days may pass between the date of setting the meeting and the actual meeting
Final determination of the joint proposal of two candidates for Council membership	Organizations that collectively form a single authorized proposer; if consensus cannot be reached, the final joint candidate proposal is determined by a vote ⁴ , with the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes being selected	At the meeting of authorized proposers
Public interview with proposed candidates for Council membership	Culture and Information Committee	15 days from the date of determining the proposal
Election of a Council member at a plenary session of the National Assembly⁵	Plenary session of the National Assembly by a majority of the total number of Members of Parliament; if no one is elected, the procedure will be repeated within an unspecified period	The election of a Council member is placed on the agenda of the first following session of the National Assembly after the public interview

Term of office for REM Council members under the new Law on Electronic Media

According to the Law on Electronic Media, the term of office for Council members will be 6 years, instead of the previous 5 years.

However, **there is an exception for the first election conducted under the new law: three Council members will be elected for two years, three members for four years, and three members for six years.** The length of the term for the members of the first Council elected under the new Law on Electronic Media will be determined by drawing lots, which will be conducted by the President of the National Assembly at a session of the Assembly.

One of the key innovations of the new Law on Electronic Media is the introduction of new criteria that candidates must meet, particularly related to their work/professional

⁴ The relevant office of the National Assembly is responsible for organizing the voting and publishing the final proposal on the National Assembly's website.

⁵ **At the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, voting is conducted separately for the candidates from each authorized proposer. Thus, two candidates agreed upon by the universities are put to a vote, and one of them (if they receive a majority of the total number of Members of Parliament) becomes a member. Next, the two candidates agreed upon by the churches and religious communities are put to a vote, and one of them (if they receive a majority) becomes a member. This process is repeated for each of the 9 members.**

experience. Below are the conditions and disqualifications for the election of Council members.

Who can be elected as a member of the Council?	Who cannot be elected as a member of the Council?
Members of the Council are elected from among distinguished experts in fields relevant to the duties of the Regulator. A member of the Council can only be an individual who has a positive public reputation and has advocated through their work and activities for freedom of expression, free flow of information, realization of human rights, development of civil society, enhancement of democracy, and respect for constitutionality and legality. Formal education: A member of the Council can only be an individual who has higher education at the undergraduate level, comprising at least 240 ECTS credits, or an undergraduate program lasting at least four years, who is a citizen of the Republic of Serbia and resides in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Professional/Work Experience: Experts in fields relevant to the duties of the Regulator include: 1. Individuals in teaching or research positions with at least ten years of professional experience in the field, at faculties where journalism, communication, and media are studied, in areas and scientific disciplines related to journalism, communication, and media, provided that study programs at these faculties have existed for at least 20 years. 2. Journalists and editors with at least ten years of experience in content production and editing or management in electronic media, radio, and television. 3. Experts with at least ten years of experience in the business of electronic media or are involved in the media market and other operations in the field of electronic media in professional domestic and international organizations, particularly: lawyers, political scientists, communication specialists, and sociologists.	1. Individuals holding a public office in the Republic of Serbia, an autonomous province, or a local self-government unit under regulations governing conflicts of interest in the exercise of public functions. 2. Officials in a political party under regulations governing conflicts of interest in the exercise of public functions (a party member who is not an official can be a member of the Council!). 3. Individuals who are owners or shareholders of media service providers, members of governing bodies and other organs, employees, contracted individuals, or those with interests in legal entities engaged in the production, distribution, or broadcasting of radio and television programs or related activities. 4. Individuals who have been convicted of a criminal offense to an unconditional prison sentence of at least six months. 5. Individuals who have been sanctioned by relevant bodies of journalistic and media organizations for unprofessional and unethical behavior in the performance of journalistic activities. 6. Individuals whose actions and behavior call into question the reputation of the Regulator and its independence. Candidates are obliged to provide a written statement to the authorized proposer confirming that there are no obstacles to their election.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Musical artists, writers, producers, drama, and audiovisual artists with at least ten years of experience working on electronic media programs.5. Media researchers with at least ten years of experience researching media at universities, institutes, and other professional organizations or civil society organizations. | |
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The Process of Appointing the new REM Council

After nearly four months of delay, the Committee for Culture and Information of the National Assembly announced a [public call](#) for proposing candidates for the election of members of the REM Council. The public call was published in the Official Gazette on November 29, 2024, and from that date, a 15-day deadline began during which authorized proposers were required to submit their justified proposal of two candidates for the members of REM Council. After the authorized proposers submitted their proposals, the Committee held a [session](#) on December 20, 2024. At that session, the lists of candidates from five groups of authorized proposers⁶, who were deemed to have submitted complete proposals, were confirmed, while for the remaining four groups of authorized proposers, the Committee set an additional deadline until December 27, 2024, to complete their proposals. At the following [session](#) held on December 30, 2024, the Committee confirmed the lists of candidates proposed by the remaining four groups of authorized proposers who were given the additional deadline.

As of December 30, 2024, the lists of groups of authorized proposers and their candidates were finalized and published and the Committee had a 7-day deadline to determine the date for establishing a joint proposal of two candidates before each group of authorized proposers. The Committee, on January 14, 2024, with a few days of delay, [invited](#) the groups of authorized proposers to a meeting which will be held on January 20, 2024. At the meeting each group of authorized proposers will have to decide on a joint proposal of two candidates before their group, after which the interviews with the candidates will be carried out.

⁶ The term “group of authorised proposers” presents organisations that collectively form a single authorised proposer.

At the final stage of the appointing procedure, the joint proposal will reach the plenary session of the National Assembly where it will be decided upon by a majority of the total number of members of the Parliament.

The list of authorized proposers and their candidates is as follows⁷:

At the proposal of the Ombudsman, the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data:

1. Gordana Predić
2. Saša Mirković
3. Stevica Smederevac
4. Žarko Simović

At the proposal of accredited universities in the Republic of Serbia:

1. Aleksandra Gajović
2. Dragan Guzijan
3. Ivan Medenica
4. Milorad Vukašinović
5. Vanja Šibalić
6. Zoran Jevtović

At the proposal of the Association of Electronic Media Publishers:

1. Jovana Vitez
2. Miloš Rajković
3. Tanja Vojvodić

At the proposal of the Journalists' Association in the Republic of Serbia:

1. Dejan Vuk Stanković
2. Mileva Malešić
3. Petar Kočić
4. Snježana Milivojević

At the proposal of the Association of Film, Stage, and Dramatic Artists and the Association of Composers in the Republic of Serbia:

1. Aleksandar Petrović
2. Ira Prodanov Krajišnik
3. Ivan Lalić
4. Leontina Pat

⁷ Presents the list which is preliminary in relation to the joint list of two candidates before every group of authorized proposers which has not been made as of the writing of this report.

5. Željko Hubač

At the proposal of associations whose aim is the protection of children:

1. Aleksandra Krstić
2. Dušan Aleksić
3. Milanka Gvoić
4. Milorad Milinković
5. Vladan Škorić

At the proposal of associations whose aim is the protection of freedom of expression:

1. Dubravka Valić Nedeljković
2. Rodoljub Šabić

At the proposal of the Council of National Minorities:

1. Ištvan Bodžoni
2. Muhedin Fijuljanin

At the proposal of churches and religious communities:

1. Dr. Mevljud Dudić
2. Dr. Misala Pramenković
3. Sanja Anđelković
4. Snežana Miljković

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