

Broj: 02-01/23
Sarajevo, 10.01.2023.godine

SUBJECT : Reaction to the claims made about the work of JP "Filmski Centar Sarajevo" d.o.o.

Dear All,

On 5th of January, 2023 and 6th of January, 2023, certain media portals („Klix.ba", „Narod.ba" and „Depo.ba") published an article titled "The Ministry of Culture and Sports determined a bad condition in the Film Center Sarajevo with questionable business legalities". The article contained a series of **malicious, inaccurate and discriminatory allegations**.

We consider it important that the public gets acquainted with all the events and circumstances in and around the Film Center, especially after the publication of the aforementioned article, bearing in mind the media forms public opinion. For all these reasons, considering your profession and its principles, we invite you to issue a denial and an apology for the publication of the article in question, and for not having the knowledge of the accurate situation or the facts behind the allegations.

We emphasize that the published controversial texts are completely untrue and published on the basis of very questionable sources with the aim of permanently ruining the reputation of the company's bodies, and what was implicated from the very content of the article, which is not based on any factual situation evidence, given that the Ministry's information as well as the proposed conclusion was not accepted by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With everything said, it is important to state that all the facts in our Response are easy to verify.

Starting from the elementary tasks of professional journalism, with the aim of truthful information to the public, we request that you urgently publish the text of the Response as follows:

1. The insinuation that the Statute of the company is illegal is completely inappropriate, given that it is the legal procedure for the implementation of the Statute is fully verified, which was given on May 20th, 2012, and unanimously accepted by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 266th session, based on the positive Opinion of the Office for legislation and compliance with EU regulations and the Mission of the Federal Ministry of Finance.
2. Also, the General Acts of the Film Center are fully aligned with all laws and by-laws in order to ensure consistent and comprehensive application of the provisions regulations in the field of labor relations as well as the mandatory implementation of

the recommendations of the Audit Committee, considering that workers' wages based on earlier illegal ordinances were higher in relation to their level of education and in relation to the salaries of employees in the department to the Ministry.

3. The function of the Assembly in accordance with Article 11 of the Founding Decision and Article 13 of the Statute, is done by the founder - the Government of the Federation of BiH and not the departmental Ministry, and what the Assembly - the Government of the Federation of BiH has repeatedly pointed out and called on them to do in accordance with the competences established by law.
4. The acceptance of the Work Plan for the year 2022, the three-year Work Plan for 2022-2024 and Work report for the year 2021., which includes the Report on the work of the Supervisory Board and the Audit Committee was conditioned by the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports by the illegal retroactive application of old regulations in order to make certain workers with high school-level education be returned to their jobs that require a higher level of education. This is where the conflict of interests of the Assistant Minister for Economic - Financial, Legal and General affairs, who with years of pressure, obstructs the work of Film Center for the sake of his wife, who is employed at the Film Center.
5. The sale of film rights owned by the Film Center is continuously done by the administration of the Film Center, which supplements the company's budget, because the planned and approved subsidy of 200,000.00 KM is not enough to cover even the basic costs of salaries, Supervisors committee, the Audit committee, the cost of the utilities for two facilities, and the preservation of the films. The main goal for the Film Center is the protection and promotion of the National Treasure of over 1,000 tapes of film produced from 1941 to 1994 by the production companies, which the Film Center is the legal successor of. In order for the Film Center to achieve its basic task, the administration had the help of the Fund of the American Ambassadors and the Sarajevo Foundation for Cinematography for the acquired equipment for digitization, and the softwares for digitization are still in the process of acquiring, in order to preserve the fungi infested, partially ruined and cancerous film tapes in order for them to be able to digitize and sell to make a profit. The films that were "digitized" by the previous management of the company were being sold in the lowest resolution, with bad image and tone. Today's market is requiring high resolution films, and not amateurly "digitized" films, which has made the already existing films impossible to sell and to create a profit.
6. Today, Film Center Sarajevo is the only company in the region that has a full system for digitization, which no other institution in the countries of former Yugoslavia has. In order to stabilize a profit from selling films, which were found in a devastating state because of neglect in the past 20 years, it is necessary to digitize the films, but first, new workers need to be employed, workers who are experienced and specialized in film digitization, but those kind of employees are currently not amongst the regular Film Center employees. This is the reason as to why specially trained experts are getting hired on contracts, and paid exclusively from the project budget, which was never meant or can be used to pay for regular employees paychecks.
7. The initiative of the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports, that proposes that the Film Center and the Sarajevo Cinematography Foundation join into one institution is

unacceptable because the main purpose of the Film Center is to preserve the film heritage which was declared a National treasure and is of public interest for the country. It would be inconsiderate to leave the care of the heritage to the Sarajevo Foundation for cinematography, which is a citizens' association that has only one employee and does not own any assets. It is more likely that this is about aspirations for the property of the Film center, which consists of films whose rights are essential for the granting of a license for copyright protection, as well as for other property in the form of a building in the city center, and a former studio of 18 dulusms of land in Nahorevo, which, as an attractive piece of land, was considered for the construction of residential buildings and other facilities in earlier convocations of the Supervisory Board and Audit Committee, which would abolish the Film Center Sarajevo and thwart our intention to make it the nucleus of the development of BiH cinema as it once used to be.

8. The statements made about the application of Jasmin Duraković, which refers to the competitive procedure for the selection and appointment of the general director of JP "Filmski Centar Sarajevo" d.o.o., are completely unfounded, considering that the Institution of Ombudsman for Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina closed the case under number SA-05-832/22 for reasons of unfoundedness.
9. The insinuation that Izudin Bajrović, a member of the Supervisory board is in conflict of interest is inaccurate because Bajrović irrevocably resigned from the duties of a board member of the SBB Party in February 2nd, 2022.

That JP "Filmski Centar Sarajevo" operates in accordance with all laws and regulations. Regulations was confirmed by the Minutes of the Federal Administration for Inspections in the field of labor relations as well as the competent Administration for Indirect Taxation, and all attempts to obstruct the work of Film center in the form of threats and other means due to changes in the systematization of workplaces are completely unfounded and inadmissible.

We suggest that in the future, in order to provide timely and truthful information to the public, the content of texts about JP "Filmski Centar Sarajevo" d.o.o., which are planned to be published in any type of media, should be checked with the official source of information.

Sincerely,



Ines Tanović, generalni direktor
General Manager