

EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION and HOME AFFAIRS

The Director General

03. 08. 2015

Brussels, home.a.1(2015)3565521

Ms Maja Raicevic Executive Director NGO Women's Rights Center Bokeška 20 81 000 <u>Podgorica</u> MONTENEGRO

Dear Ms Raicevic,

Subject: Grant awarded to NGO Public Policy Institute from Montenegro

Thank you for your e-mail to President Juncker dated 29 June 2015, which echoes the concerns of 52 NGOs from Western Balkans further to the recent selection of a project promoted by the Public Policy Institute (PPI) under the "Europe for Citizens" Programme.

Your collective letter has received our fullest attention.

Considering the turmoil sparked at regional level by this grant award decision, I have asked the Executive Agency in charge of implementing the Programme to suspend the signature of the corresponding contract. As a precautionary measure, no legal commitment has been taken at this stage for the implementation of this project.

In parallel, I have ordered an in-depth examination of this case by my services, in close coordination with the EU Delegation in Montenegro and the Executive Agency.

As you know, the European Commission has always been committed to support actions which are consistent with the values and principles it promotes.

Yours sincerely,

Mathias RUETE