



PRESS RELEASE

In the course of 2015, a total of 209 political entities (96 political parties and 113 groups of citizens) were obliged to submit their 2014 annual financial statements (AFS). Political parties, particularly those represented in the National Assembly, demonstrated a higher level of responsibility regarding this task than the groups of citizens. Almost two thirds of political parties and only one fourth of groups of citizens complied with their statutory obligation and timely submitted their 2014 AFSs. Out of that number, seven political parties and one group of citizens stated in their AFS that they had no income or expenditure in the course of 2014.

TOTAL INCOME

In the course of 2015, the Agency was overseeing 40 political entities, and all findings are presented in its “Report on the Annual Political Entities Oversight for 2014”. As in the previous years, public funds remain the predominant source of financing for the political parties and groups of citizens, amounting to RSD 2,186,130,396.99 (approximately 78% of the total income). Both financial and non-financial contributions of natural persons amounted to RSD 291,141,423.68 (approximately 10% of the total income), thereby representing the second most important source of income.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Political entities presented in their 2014 AFS the expenditures totaling RSD 3,008,118,087.40, which included the costs of all regular activities and election campaign costs. Out of that, the expenditures of political parties amounted to RSD 2,991,048,429.41 (99.43% of the total expenditures), and the expenditures of groups of citizens amounted to RSD 17,069,657.99 (0.57% of the total expenditures). Two political parties and three groups of citizens presented income in their 2014 AFS but not expenditures.

As in the previous years, other non-expressed costs in 2014 amounting to RSD 1,388,852,446.49 (46.17% of the total expenditures) represent the most common costs in the structure of expenditures of all political entities. Apart from these costs, costs of promotional materials and publications as well as the costs for public events were increased compared to 2013. This is understandable given that the MPs elections and the City of Belgrade councilors elections were held in 2014. The commercial material costs were three times higher in 2014 and they amounted to RSD 383,991,767.40 (12.77% of the total costs) compared to 2013 when they amounted to RSD 102,531,685.74 (4.92% of the total costs). Political entities spent the total of RSD 460,018,045.06 (15.29% of the total costs) in 2014 for their public events. If other non-expressed costs are set aside, the public events costs represent the type of costs for which all political entities spent the most of their funds, which is six and a half times more compared to the previous year when they amounted to RSD 69,304,237.98 (4.92% of the total costs).

POLITICAL ENTITIES WITH EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING THEIR INCOMES

Almost one third of political entities that filed their 2014 AFS - 23 political parties (25.27%) and six groups of citizens (6.59%) - presented expenditures exceeding their income. These political entities spent in total RSD 324,933,209.05 more that they presented as income. Approximately the same number of political entities (24 political parties and three groups of citizens) had an “overdraft” of RSD 51,382,547.35 in 2013, which is six times less than in 2014. It is interesting that the same eight political parties had expenditures exceeding their incomes in both 2014 and 2013.

MOTIONS TO INITIATE MISDEMEANOR PROCEEDINGS

As a result of the oversight in 2015, the Agency filed 217 motions to initiate misdemeanor proceedings due to different violations of the Law on Financing of Political Activities. The number of motions filed in 2015 was six and a half times higher compared to the previous year and it accounts for more than 34% of all motions the Agency filed with regard to financing of political entities.

No	BASIS FOR FILING A MOTION TO INITIATE MISDEMEANOR PROCEEDINGS	2015	TOTAL 2012-2015	5 TOTAL 2012-2015
1	Misappropriation of funds		1	0.16%
2	Overdue Filing of 2011 AFS		13	2.04%
3	Failure to file 2012 AFS		46	7.22%
4	Failure to file 2013 AFS		51	8.01%
5	Failure to file 2014 AFS		36	5.65%
6	Failure to file an auditor’s opinion along with 2012 AFS		4	0.63%
7	Failure to file an auditor’s opinion along with 2014 AFS		7	1.10%
8	The prohibition of financing – funds haven’t been returned -2012 AFS		2	0.31%
9	Failure to file a report on 2012 campaign funding		403	63.27%
10	Failure to file a report on 2013 campaign funding		20	3.14%
11	Failure to file a report on 2014 campaign funding		16	2.51%
12	Failure to file a report on 2015 campaign funding		1	0.16%
13	2014 Report on campaign funding – does not contain all of the data		9	1.41%
14	Failure to post information about donations on the website in 2014		14	2.20%
15	Failure to submit data requested by the Agency		5	0.78%
16	Failure to open an account for 2013 campaigns		2	0.31%
17	Failure to open an account for 2014 campaigns		3	0.47%
18	Failure to use 5% of public funds for professional development in 2014		4	0.63%
TOTAL		217	637	100.00%
TOTAL %		34.06%	100.00%	

LOSING THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE PUBLIC SOURCE FUNDS

In 2014, based upon the final judgements, the Agency issued 27 decisions (around 47% of 58 decisions) by which political entities lost their right to receive public source funds which are dedicated to financing their regular work in 2016.