

Sir,

To our dismay we have been informed that Mr. Sreten Ugričić, Director of the National Library of Serbia, is the target of a smear campaign led by some newspapers and has been dismissed from his position.

In my capacity as President of the CENL (Conference of European National Librarians) and on behalf of its 49 members, all the national librarians of the European Union included, I should like to let you know that this news has been received with great sadness and incomprehension. Mr. Sreten Ugričić is, indeed, unanimously recognized by his peers for his professional skills as well as for his unwavering commitment to democratic principles and freedom of speech as advocated by the Council of Europe, the respect of which is a condition for joining the CENL.

We should like to believe that this decision can be reversed and that Mr. Sreten Ugričić will soon be reinstated in his position as one of Europe's most eminent librarians.

Yours sincerely,

Bruno Racine

President of the CENL