

TO: Nomination Committee for the WFSJ board

Respected,

I would like to recommend my dear colleague Milica Momcilovic for the board of the World Federation of Science Journalists.

Milica has considerable experience in science journalism. She is an active member of the Balkan Network of Science Journalists. While full-time employed by the national TV network of Serbia, she also contributes high-quality articles on a wide range of scientific topics and broader issues touching upon the role of science in human society to “Politika”, a traditional and greatly respected newspaper with a weekly supplement covering art, culture and science. Milica is also keen to exploit the potential of modern electronic media for high-impact, in-depth, day-to-day coverage of science. In addition to co-editing the official science portal of the national TV network, she has started an online news website dedicated to the analysis of global climate change-related issues and “green” energy sources, Greenweb.rs. Milica’s engagement has brought new life to the official portal, opening avenues and providing support and inspiration for many colleagues to intensify the collective efforts to combat the threatening trend of progressive diminishment of science coverage in national-level (and other) news.

Milica is well known and greatly respected among our colleagues across the region of Southeast Europe and maintains extensive contacts with top science journalists, and many scientists, from all over the world. Regularly attending summer schools and conferences, and always ready to engage in field trips to assure the access to best-quality information sources, Milica is oriented toward a networking perspective in science journalism, a necessary prerequisite to reclaiming some of the social impact of this important, but sadly neglected field, and bringing the impact of qualified science journalists closer to the level that may meet the demands of a rational public discourse on science, built upon full acknowledgement of facts and understanding of methods and processes, that appears to be sorely lacking in the current social landscape, both global and local. Milica’s involvement has also been indispensable in the realization of many public outreach activities and manifestations, such as Festival of Science and Famelab.

Milica’s thoughtful and enlightened coverage of various controversial topics, including, but not limited to, safety and efficacy of vaccination, health-related and ecological risks and potential benefits of using genetically modified organisms in agriculture and other areas, and debates on the reality of evolution and global climate change, is a great source of inspiration to all of us, and a practical demonstration of many key principles of good science journalism. Milica’s reporting and analyses are objective

without falling into the omnipresent trap of false equivalence between science and pseudoscience, or equating methodologically thorough and independently verified research with poor-quality articles in predatory journals. In short, throughout her work, Milica employs her highly developed critical thinking skills.

In all her contributions, Milica shows absolute dedication to, and unwavering consciousness of, values of social justice, gender and ethnic equality, human rights and non-discrimination, as well as great sensitivity to ethical dimensions of all aspects of science.

Having collaborated with Milica for many years in efforts to bring science-related topics and issues closer to the public, I have the privilege to say that no-one could wish for a better person to have in a team.

Yours sincerely,

Srdja Jankovic, <ysrdja@gmail.com>

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