

**INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD OF MISSION, AMBASSADOR JANINA HREBICKOVA,  
AIRED ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING – RTCG  
MORNING SHOW CLIP - BY MS. ANA JOVOVIC**

**TRANSCRIPT**

**RTCG:** Distinguished Ms. Hrebickova, you were appointed to your position in Montenegro last year, beginning of December. Was this really your first encounter with Montenegro?

**Amb. Hrebickova:** “No, it wasn’t. As you know, 23 years ago I was also a journalist, investigative journalist, and I worked in various war stricken zones, in the Middle East, and I also worked in the former Yugoslavia when the war broke out - first in Slovenia, then in Croatia, later in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in many other places around former Yugoslavia. I used to come to Montenegro often, and it made me very happy that you managed to avoid the bloodshed, which sadly did take place in other countries I worked in. Let me tell you that I used to work with one of your very good cameraman, Bozidar Knezevic, who is unfortunately no longer with us. However, I am very happy that 17 years later I am again in his country, which I love very much. I am really happy and honored to have received the opportunity for this position by the Czech Ministry, and that the Government and the OSCE Chairmanship has chosen me for this job. I hope that with all of you we will manage to create a good cooperation and that my engagement in your country will be meaningful”.

**RTCG:** Hrebickova was working for a number of years for the Czech and a couple of international media outlets. Speaking from her personal experience, Montenegrin journalism is in her view finding itself in a very unfavorable situation, due to incomplete consolidation of the state institutions, both from the aspect of standards of the European Union and implementation of new laws, as well as in the context of respect of human rights, where the media play a very important role.

**Amb. Hrebickova:** “I believe it will still take some time for the various aspects to be raised to a professional level, but at the same time every journalist should have at his disposal a full freedom of expression, full freedom of word, which does not mean that they can report without any responsibility, without the respect for rights of individuals and without the respect of the Code of Ethics”.

**RTCG:** She sees Montenegro as a unique country in various fields, which should be promoted as much as possible.

**Amb. Hrebickova:** “Your country is small but it worth gold, it has a huge potential, and it is a very beautiful country, which has an awful of lot of diverse natural potentials, and

it is one of a kind, there are no countries similar to it. I think that what is still missing is that people around the world should know more about what you have to offer, in culture, sports, nature, in all other potentials attracting more visits of different travelers”.

**RTCG:** Although her diplomatic service occupies a big portion of her time, she is thankful that from time to time she can afford to have a free weekend to herself.

**Amb. Hrebickova:** “There are so many places to visit, and I really like very much to walk around, to go for hiking in the mountains, or to go for a swim. It is really convenient that you can choose to go either to the north or south, east, west, everywhere you go there is something interesting to see”.

**RTCG:** The OSCE Mission is intensively working on creating a favorable environment in various fields, in journalism and in other spheres along Montenegro’s path towards the European Union and NATO. What are those instruments that are really crucial in creating such an environment?

**Amb. Hrebickova:** “What I would like to see is a more active participation of citizens. When I say this, I do not mean primarily and only NGO’s. NGOs are naturally very, very important in any process of democratization and in any process of post conflict rehabilitation. But this is not enough”.

**RTCG:** Of no lesser importance is the role of the state institutions, with whom the OSCE is having an excellent cooperation.

- You have also been a part of peace keeping missions of the UN, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and others. In that particular context, I would like to hear more about the cooperation of your Mission and the Montenegrin Defense Ministry?

**Amb. Hrebickova:** “When it comes to that particular Ministry, you have noticed very well that in the beginning of next year we will engage in an extended, deeper cooperation, because I believe that in this process of integrations to the European Union and the NATO, a modern Montenegro should be cooperating with the whole range of the OSCE’s mandate, since, as you know, our mandate is not only in the area of capacity building, establishing and developing of institutions; we need to come up with a package of tasks which would involve both institutions and individuals, experts and media, in the overall process, and try and create results together”.