



23 September, 2009

The Honorable Srdjan Sreckovic
The Minister for Diaspora of the Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Serbia

Dear Mr. Minister:

It was my pleasure to see you during your visit to San Francisco this month and to discuss with you various Diaspora issues and ways our organization can cooperate with the Ministry.

As the Diaspora Ministry you are the representative body of the Serbian diaspora and we as Serbian diaspora individually and as organizations are your members. Amongst ourselves, we can interact to assess our needs and goals vis-à-vis Serbia. Through you, our Ministry, we work to relate to our homeland. Additionally, your centralized information can be our link amongst ourselves. Being able to communicate amongst ourselves would enable the Diaspora to cooperate for the benefit of Serbia and Diaspora.

It would be of great benefit to the Diaspora if we were able to inform ourselves of each others' work, events, etc., share experiences and cooperate on Diaspora projects. Inter-Diaspora communication would greatly enhance our ability to affect and inform policy makers (in our respective countries as well as in Serbia). Given the importance of our size and financial contribution to Serbia's economy, your Ministry needs to not only continue but be enhanced to reflect the constituent body you represent. Cooperating, the Diaspora can assure our Ministry's survival and health.

The diaspora is still fragmented. We are interested in starting communication with other diaspora organizations. Our new web site will feature the Serbian diaspora and provide links to various events and organizations (with their permission) to expand and promote the linking of our members. Being able to communicate at will among ourselves would help build better cohesion and interaction and help overcome this fragmentation over time. As is standard with all associations, we would like to have the list of all Diaspora organizations that you currently have. This does not include the list of individual Diaspora members in your data base, simply the Diaspora organizations and their contact information.

We would also like to recommend that the Ministry post the full network of Diaspora organizations on your site. We believe representation of the expansiveness of this network would work to the benefit of the Ministry by showing the great size of the body it represents.

I look forward to receiving the list of our fellow Ministry constituents, the other Diaspora organizations.

Sincerely yours,

Mirjana Samardzija