

**From:** Lewis, Joshua A <LewisJA@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2017 9:10 AM  
**To:** Stephenson, David <Stephensond@state.gov>  
**Cc:** Smylie, Levi R <SmylieLR@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for meeting by German Filkov

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According to Mitko, it is a reputable organization and German is a solid economist. The Embassy has had excellent cooperation with the organization in recent years and he recommends taking the meeting.

Josh

**Official**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

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**From:** Giauque, Ivna  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 2:47 PM  
**To:** Stephenson, David; Smylie, Levi R; Lewis, Joshua A  
**Subject:** FW: Request for meeting by German Filkov

Dear all-

Wendy Pond from the Office of Government Ethics called the desk this morning to let us know about the meeting request below, from German Filkov of the Center for Civil Communications. Any insights into this organization and recommendations for Wendy?

Thank you,  
Ivna

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Wendy G. Pond [<mailto:wgpond@oge.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** Giauque, Ivna  
**Subject:** FW: Request for meeting

Hi Ivna, thank you for your time on the phone. Below is the request we received. Feel free to email or call me with any questions you may have.

*Wendy*

Wendy Pond  
Senior Desk Officer &  
International Assistance and Outreach Team Lead  
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202-482-9285  
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**From:** German Filkov [mailto:(b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 4:28 AM  
**To:** Contact OGE  
**Subject:** Request for meeting

Dear Sir/Mme,

I am writing to you having been referred by Mr. Stuart Gilman, with whom we cooperated couple of years ago.

My name is German Filkov and I am president of Center for Civil Communications, a research-based anticorruption and transparency watchdog organization, mainly in the field of public procurement and public spending. We monitor public procurements in the country, publish regular reports and analyses with findings and measures for narrowing the room for corruption and for legal changes. In addition, we do number of researches regarding public spending and other issues of wider importance of citizens. We serve as a help-desk for journalists and other NGOs in exploring their right to obtain public information. Also, we do media monitoring and investigative journalism trainings. We are very active in the OGP initiative, and we developed and since the last year we run the web portal [www.opendata.mk](http://www.opendata.mk).

We are organizing a study visit in Washington DC in late March, 2017 during which meetings are planned with a number of CSOs and other institutions that work in the field of good governance (transparency, anti-corruption, public spending monitoring, etc.). The purpose of the study visit and meetings is to exchange opinions, ideas, knowledge and sound practices, as well as to discover new modes of bringing our projects' activities closer to the constituencies.

**I would be very grateful if we (I and my colleague Ms. Sabina Fakic, program manager) can schedule a meeting with you during the week of March 20-23 at your earliest convenience.**

Thank you in advance and hope to see you again soon.

Kind regards,

German

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German Filkov, PhD, M.Ec  
President  
Center for Civil Communications

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