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Media situation in Serbia

The Ombudsman of the Province of Vojvodina warned the citizens not to accept the advice appearing in some public statements and claiming that collection of radio and TV fee has no basis in law and that court mail should be rejected. Contrary to some claims, the Constitutional Court has not invalidated the provisions of the Law on Broadcasting that are related to radio and TV fee, and the Law is still in force. The average rate of collection of the RTV fee in Serbia in 2011 is 41 percent.

(Pravda, 10.02.2012)

The state secretary for the Ministry of Justice, Slobodan Homen, said that the Government had accepted the proposal to remove the criminal offense of insult and libel from the Criminal Code. "The Council of Europe and the European Union clearly recommend that it is necessary to raise standards in the field of media freedoms and the freedom of journalists. Legal proceedings related to compensation for tangible or intangible damage are still possible. Journalists will be interested to know that removal of criminal offenses of insult and libel from the Criminal Code means that all ongoing proceedings will be terminated, regardless of which phase they are in", said Homen.

(Pravda, 04.02.2012, Kurir, 06.02.2012)

Assessments of the current media situation in Serbia

Journalist Marina Fratucan says to the newspaper Dnevnik: "The media in Serbia is in a very bad position. Media outlets are financially devastated and are not a popular career choice of young people. Journalists are susceptible to manipulation and in fear of losing their salaries. I could advise students to become journalists because of their love for the profession or enthusiasm, but I cannot guarantee that they would be able to support their families and adhere to the professional rules."

(Dnevnik, UNS, 12.02.2012)

Interviewed by the daily newspaper Politika, Vojislav Kostunica says: "I am very proud of the freedom of the media that existed in Serbia during the period 2004-2008. If I could turn back the time, I would make even more effort to ensure free media and free speech in Serbia. I am convinced that attempts to exert control over the media will prove detrimental to those who try to achieve it."

(Politika, UNS, 13.02.2012)

Zarko Korac writes on the web site of Pescanik: "The controlled media outdid themselves. There have been almost no reports in the media about the termination of negotiations with the IMF or the closure of 'Sartid', a company that instead of being the largest exporter in Serbia is about to become a burden to taxpayers. Everyone who reads the media can see that the elections are approaching. The increase in tension is obvious. Leaders of political parties make daily statements in the media, travel around Serbia and abroad, mount attacks against each other, and frequently pay for research of public opinion. All these things would constitute typical behavior in election campaigns, if it was not for a single, terrifying fact: the political discourse is completely devoid of any ideas about possible solutions for the serious economic and social crisis in Serbia.

(Dnevnik, Autonomija, NDNV, 12.02.2012)

The state and the media

Journalist working for daily newspaper Kurir, Gordana Rakovic, writes: "Those who do not pay attention to journalists and do not respect them, while at the same time believing that correct relationship with the media can only result from shady dealings, have become a part of the political prehistory. People who wrote and published this sentence on the website of the Democratic Party (DS) are correct. If you are a journalist and call any of the DS officials asking for a comment or the party position on an issue, they will tell you to talk to Jelena Trivan. The former spokeswoman of the DS is not as available to the media as she used to be before she became the deputy president of the DS.

(Kurir, 06.02.2012)

All the officials of the Democratic Party (DS) that the newspaper Danas had been trying to contact for weeks answered our calls yesterday, but only after receiving our SMS in which we announced our intention to publish an article about the manner in which DS communicates with the media. For weeks, Danas was trying to contact Jelena Trivan and the head of the ZES parliamentary group in the National Parliament of Serbia, Nada Kolundzija, as well as to get an official statement or information from Marko Djuric. As a result of such behavior, our recent articles lacked

answers to a range of questions, mostly the ones that politicians would find "unwelcome".

(Danas, 08.02.2012)

Statement issued by the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) says that "the Government of Vojvodina today announced that first positive effects in the process of consolidation of Dnevnik Holding from Novi Sad were being felt. Thanks mostly to the steps taken by the Government of Vojvodina and the Government of Serbia, the first phase of stabilization of the company has been completed after four extremely difficult years. However, it was not specified what kind of positive effects took place."

(NDNV, 14.02.2012)

Public service broadcasters

The leading and the oldest national news and media agency of Azerbaijan, "AzerTAc", the official Eurovision portal "Eurovision.az" and the newspaper "Bakinskiy Rabochiy" praised the reporting of Radio-Television Serbia about the preparations for 57th Eurovision contest in Azerbaijan and Baku.

(RTS, NUNS, 10.02.2012)

Threats, attacks and legal proceedings against journalists; media trials

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) held a meeting at which it was decided to make an offer to the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) proposing joint management of the building in Resavska Street, says to Danas Vukasin Obradovic, the president of NUNS. The UNS would be required to recognize the right of NUNS to be registered as an owner of the building, and to pay NUNS the legal expenses in the amount of 412,187 dinars. However, the UNS could appeal the verdict or demand revision, which might extend the deadline for division of the building.

(Danas, UNS, NUNS, 03.02.2012)

In a few days, the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) will inform its members and the public why the Association's legal team disputes the decision of the Court of Appeals. The Court decided to overturn the verdict made by the First Primary Court in Belgrade, which confirmed this spring that UNS was the rightful owner of the building at 28 Resavska Street in Belgrade, says Liljana Smajlovic, the president of UNS. In her opinion, fair use of the building in Resavska Street can be agreed upon in an amicable manner and the agreement must not result from illegal and unfair decisions made by the state.

(Danas, 08.02.2012)

The legal team of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) has prepared a constitutional complaint and revision in a response to the decision made by the Court of Appeals in Belgrade. The Court overturned the verdict passed by the First Primary Court and decided that UNS and the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) are joint owners of the Journalists' Building at 28 Resavska Street in Belgrade.

(UNS, 09.02.2012, Politika, 11.02.2012)

The court session related to the lawsuit filed by journalist Vladimir Jesic took place regardless of the fact that the Higher Court in Novi Sad had received the telegram sent by Velimir Ilic, in which Ilic explained that he was unable to appear in the courtroom because of the emergency situation in the country. During the session, the Court heard the testimonies of a witness, Goran Trajkovski, and an expert, Dr Milan Stankovic. The following court session in this case is scheduled for March 5.

(Beta, Blic, NUNS, UNS, Alo!, Dnevnik, 09.02.2012)

The editor-in-chief of Radio Pancevo, Dragan Milenkovic, was dismissed from work for the second time after the court's decision that he has to be allowed to return to his job.

(Politika, 07.02.2012)

The director of Radio-Television Timocka (TTV), Vladan Paunovic, denied the news that "Emisiona Tehnika i Veze" shut down the signal of TTV on February 3 because of alleged debt amounting to several million. He said that the interruption of programme broadcasting via the transmitter located at Deli Jovan had been caused by technical problems in the transmitter, while the transmitter on Tupiznica was used only for radio signal of TTV.

(Press, 08.02.2012)

The deputy prime minister and the minister of internal affairs, Ivica Dacic, said in response to a question from a TV Svet Plus journalist that his party – the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) – was responsible for social problems as much as the Progressive Party of Serbia (SNS) was responsible for the problems in years before 2000. He added that the journalist was working for a politically biased TV station.

(Tanjug, NUNS, Vecernje novosti, Press, 09.02.2012)

The Court of Appeals in Belgrade accepted the complaint and ordered a retrial of the case in which the Serbian Movement "Dveri" and the Serbian National Movement "Svetozar Miletic" filed a civil lawsuit for insult against Dinko Gruhonjic, a journalist from Novi Sad. In October of the last year, the First Primary Court in Belgrade rejected the lawsuit. News agency Beta reports that the First Primary Court was ordered to begin a new trial.

(Beta, RTV, NUNS, 09.02.2012)

The Court of Appeals in Belgrade changed the verdict against Milan Savatovic, who had been convicted of participating in the attack on B92 cameraman, Bosko Brankovic. The Court accepted the complaint submitted by the First Primary Prosecutor's Office and sentenced Savatovic to one year of prison, instead of the previous sentence of 10 months of house arrest.

(B92.net, NUNS, UNS, 10.02.2012, Tanjug, Press, 11.02.2012)

Mirjana Mimica, whose blogging alias is Mahlat, has managed to win damages from the news agency Tanjug in an out-of-court settlement. The article entitled "The Umbrella – from a Status Symbol to a Fashion Accessory", posted by Mahlat on the web site tetka.rs, was published five days later by Tanjug under the title "The Umbrella – Status Symbol and a Fashion Accessory".

(e-Novine, NDNV, 13.02.2012)

Rights of journalists

Slobodan Krstic is the first journalist who has won a lawsuit against his employer on the basis of the Law on Mobbing, reports the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). The Court of Appeals in Nis established that the employer – the newspaper Narodne Novine from Nis – had discriminated against Krstic, subjected him to constant mobbing and illegally dismissed him from work in October 2009.

(RTV, NUNS, 06.02.2012, Danas, 07.02.2012)

The Media Strategy

The strategy of public informing in Serbia until 2016 was presented in Pozarevac at an event entitled "The Media Strategy – Future Steps". Among the speakers at the event were the president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Vukasin Obradovic; the secretary of NUNS, Svetozar Rakovic; the secretary general of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Ninoslav Brajovic; and the president of the Managing Board of Local Press and the organized of the public discussion, Dejan Miladinovic. The Press Council, which monitors violations of the journalistic code of conduct, was promoted during the event.

(Danas - Braničevo, 03.02.2012)

The minority media

The Constitutional Court of Serbia is expected to make a decision by the end of March on the request for judgment on constitutionality of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. The request was filed by the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). UNS claims that the Law threatens the independence and freedom of the media and disputes the provisions that allow national councils to establish publicly-owned media outlets. In practice, political parties have influenced and run the national councils as well as their media outlets, which are the victims of unacceptable political influence, says UNS.

(UNS, 02.02.2012)

The Media Strategy of Vojvodina Hungarians, adopted in November 2011, has attracted a lot of interest as well as criticism from media professionals and certain political parties. Unofficial translation of the document into Serbian language is available at the web site of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina in the PDF format:

www.ndnv.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Medijska-strategija-vojvodanskih-Madara.pdf

(NDNV, 11.02.2012)

Istvan Bodzoni, the director of RTV Panon in Hungarian language, has announced the beginning of the construction of TV network of Vojvodina Hungarians. Creation of an integrated network would allow joint preparation of broadcasts, as well as the exchange of information and programmes. It is also planned to form a team of correspondents from Belgrade; intensify cooperation with editorial offices of other media outlets in Hungarian language – "Magyar Szo", "Het Nap" and Radio Subotica; and achieve wider cooperation with cable broadcasters. Programmes broadcast by RTV Panon are already available via the IPTV network in Serbia, as well as on the Internet.

(NDNV, 10.02.2012, Danas, NUNS, UNS, 14.02.2012)

Professional standards

Since the Government of Serbia has ignored the protest of citizens, the Writers' Forum intends to submit a request for judgment on constitutionality of the decision about dismissal of Sreten Ugricic – says the public statement issued by the Writers' Forum. At the same time, the Forum will demand that the authorities punish national media outlets which led the public campaign against Sreten Ugricic and other members of the Forum.

(Danas, 01.02.2012)

The Independent Journalist' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) called on the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) to apologize to journalist Petar Lukovic for the statement issued by the UNS on the subject of the strike of TV Avala employees. Reminding that the statement said that journalist Miodrag Popov would donate to strikers the sum of 12,500 dinars received as damages on the basis of a court verdict against the editor of E-Novine, Petar Lukovic, NDNV points out that it is "in bad taste for journalistic associations to abuse the difficult position of the employees to advertise their newly changed political position".

(NDNV, 05.02.2012, Pravda, 06.02.2012)

After a fierce argument, Pedja The Boy pushed on the floor his girlfriend Ana Krsteska, 38 years his junior, during the airing of the reality show "Couples" ("Parovi") on TV Happy. The production crew reacted immediately and threw out both the musician – who frequently participates in reality shows – and his girlfriend from the studio housing the participants of the show.

(Kurir, Press, 14.02.2012)

Appraisals, awards, training courses and competitions

PC Press has published a list of 50 best-rated national websites. The sites are listed in 10 categories, and in each of them the magazine's editors selected one winner. In the category "News and Information" the winner is the online edition of the daily newspaper Blic, while other best-rated websites include Ekapija.com, B92.net, Naslovi.net and the website of Radio-Television Serbia. Njuz.net took the first position in the category of entertainment, while the website B92.net received a special award for its continued presence among the best-rated sites.

(eKapija, Blic - Beograd, NUNS, 03.02.2012)

The newspaper Press has received the first "Green Star" ("Zelena Zvezda") award, given by the Ecotopia Fund, for its new environmental web portal PressGreen. The portal is one of the websites selected for their contribution to preservation of environment. The other selected participants are the environmental web page of the website of RTV Pancevo, the web portal Euractiv Serbia and the TV production team "Ekobalans".

(Press, 05.02.2012)

The jury of the Business Journalists Club chose the journalist of the newspaper Blic, Suzana Lakic, as the recipient of the award "The Golden Quill" ("Zlatno Pero"), which is traditionally given for business journalism. The first recipient of the award for investigative journalism, named after the founder of the Club, Gordan Ranitovic, is the journalist from the newspaper Press, Natalija Sekulic.

(Pregled, Press, 07.02.2012)

Several months after the beginning of the project "The Role of the Media and Implementation of Ethical Standards in Reporting on the Reform of the System of Social Protection and Users of Social Services", it has turned out that two participants who are crucial for high-quality informing of citizens do not possess enough knowledge about each other. The seminar, which brought together journalists and employees in the system of social protection, was dedicated to possibilities of better communication. Workshop were held in Belgrade on 20 October, in Vranje on 30 November, in Novi Sad on 8 December, and in Uzice on 14 December 2011.

(Danas – special supplement, 07.02.2012)

Lectures held in the School of Journalism of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), which is now enrolling the second generation of students, will be available not only to attendants of classes in UNS premises at 28 Resavska Street, but also to students living outside Belgrade and the country. Remote learning will allow everyone interested in the course of journalism to listen to lectures in real time. Additional information is available at the website

www.uns.org.rs.

(UNS, 14.02.2012)

The Thomson Reuters Foundation and the Robert Bosch Foundation will organize a program on economic and political reporting intended for Balkan journalists. 16 journalists will be selected for the program which includes two 10-day training courses in London (12-27 May 2012) and Berlin (23 September – 6 October 2012). The participants will also travel to Brussels and Frankfurt and meet with decision-makers and journalists reporting on European financial and political affairs. The deadline for application is 4 March 2012.

(NDNV, 10.02.2012)

Anniversaries

News agency FoNet celebrates 18 years of existence on 7 February. FoNet is the first private and independent news agency in Serbia. The agency has built a clearly defined and recognizable multimedia concept of agency news production, which apart from traditional news services (text, audio, photo, TV) also includes a web TV, FoNetweb.tv, which is unique in Serbia and region. FoNet cooperates with several international media companies, including Reuters, AP, ANSA, EPA, DPA and the Voice of America, as well as private news agencies from former Yugoslavian republics.

(FoNet,NUNS, 07.02.2012, Dnevnik, 08.02.2012)

On the occasion of 80 years of existence of the newspaper Sandzak, a round table dedicated to "The Media in Sandzak and Democracy" was held in Prijepolje on 1 February 2012. The event was organized by the Information Department of the Bosniak National Council and it brought together participants in the public and cultural scene from Prijepolje, Novi Pazar, Sjenica and Tutin.

(MC, 02.02.2012, Beta, NUNS, 03.02.2012)

The newspaper Student, which celebrates 75 years of its existence, has launched its online edition www.magazinstudent.com. The newspaper also has a Facebook and Twitter page. (@magazin_Student).

(UNS, 02.02.2012)

In Memoriam

Journalist Enike Halas passed away at the age of 38 after a long and difficult illness. Her journalistic career began in 1995 in the Hungarian department of TV Novi Sad. During her studies in Segedin she worked as a correspondent of Radio 021. In 2001, she became the programme director of radio station Multiradio, which won the renowned annual Press Freedom Award from the Republic of Hungary. Between 2009 and the last year she was the deputy editor-in-chief of the only daily newspaper in Hungarian language, Magyar Szo.

(Beta, NDNV, 05.02.2012, Press, NUNS, 07.02.2012)

Radovan Delibasic, one of the best journalists and publicists from Toplica, passed away at the age of 63. During his long career he worked as a contributor to numerous domestic and foreign media outlets. He was a correspondent of newspaper Vecernje Novosti for several years.

(Vecernje Novosti - Srbija, UNS, 09.02.2012)

A long-time journalist and a member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Nada Mijatovic, passed away at the age of 83. She began her journalistic career in 1960 and worked in newspapers Vecernje Novosti, Svijet, Oslobodjenju, Vecernji List, Nasa Borba, Republika, Danas, Viva... She received the Svetozar Markovic Award of UNS in 1973 for her editorial work. She was also a publicist.

(UNS, 08.02.2012)

Journalist Zoran Tmusic has passed away. During his long-time career in newspapers Nasa Borba, Blic and Frankfurt News, his articles are well-remembered for his extraordinary sensitivity to social issues.

(Blic, NUNS, 08.02.2012)

A writer, journalist, editor and literary historian, Miklos Hornjik, passed away at the age of 68. He worked as a contributor to the newspaper Magyar Szo, the editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine Kepes Ifjusag, and a proofreader and the editor of cultural programme in TV Novi Sad. In 1991, Hornjik moved to Hungary, where he edited two newspapers and worked as a contributor and editor in the Hungarian Television.

(RTV, 13.02.2012, Magzar.so, NDNV, vesti.rs, autonomija.info, 14.02.2012)

Media business operations

Employees of TV Avala have been striking for 50 days and one gets the impression that everyone else is pretty satisfied, writes the newspaper Politika. Independent bodies, the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), and the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) have collected their fees and claims. The owners of the station paid the employees one and a half of the remaining unpaid salaries at the last moment, on January 31, laughing all the way to the bank because the programme is being aired without live news but with advertisements. At the same time, one hundred journalists, cameramen and other employees of the national station still feel cheated. (Politika, UNS, NUNS, 09.02.2012)

At a press conference dedicated to the strike of employees of TV Avala because of unpaid salaries, the president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) and the president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) jointly pointed out that the prosecutor and the financial police were obliged to investigate the case. The representatives of the journalistic associations emphasized their dissatisfaction with the behavior of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) towards TV Avala. The former editor-in-chief of TV Avala, Robert Nemecek, who held the editorial position two years ago, said that at the time the total debt of the station had amounted to around four million euros, while today's debt is estimated at 30 million euros. "RRA treats the affair as a case closed, while the Ministry of Culture and Information has not acted in any way, except to shift responsibility to RRA", said the representative of employees.

(RTV online, B92, NUNS, UNS, 14.02.2012)

Zeljko Mitrovic has accused Robert Nemecek of getting back at him because Mitrovic prevented him from "stealing and abusing his position in TV Avala". The owner of TV Pink and a co-owner of TV Avala says: "We will file criminal charges against Robert Nemecek for libel and abuse of his position, as well as for purchase of licensing without approval of the Managing Board".

(Telegraf online, UNS, 14.02.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) warns that new, higher SOKOJ copyright tariffs threaten the survival of the electronic media. UNS says that the decision of the Administrative Court to reject the complaint filed by the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) – which demanded reconsideration and annulment of the decision of the Committee on Copyright and Related Rights – has resulted in confirmation of the several-time increase of SOKOJ fees for broadcasters.

(Kurir, Dnevnik, 01.02.2012)

The best-rated stations from Vojvodina, like Radio Dunav from Apatin, Radio AS, Radio 021 and Radio Sajam, as well as local and regional stations like Radio Becej and Radio Srbobran, are determined to fight for their survival. All of the stations will broadcast a call to the authorities to end the arbitrary behavior of SOKOJ. In seven days a meeting of all broadcasters from Vojvodina will be held in Novi Sad, where they are supposed to agree on a joint protest of local and regional broadcasters of Serbia in front of the SOKOJ building. Before the protest, a press conference will be held and an open letter sent to the Government of Serbia and all relevant ministries.

(UNS, 01.02.2012)

Implementation of the new SOKOJ tariffs approved by the Committee on Copyright and Related Rights could result in closure of local radio and television stations – says the association of independent local media outlets, Local Press. According to the association, the Committee on Copyright and Related Rights has inflicted great damage on broadcasters by accepting SOKOJ's proposed tariff list which, aside from specifying the fees in the range of 2.5-4.5 percent of gross revenue, also stipulates introduction of a so-called minimal fee for broadcasters.

(Lokal press, Tanjug, Pregled, NUNS, 03.02.2012)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina supports radio and television stations protesting against the new fees of SOKOJ, which are 300-700 percent larger than the current fees and the minimal fee.

(Blic-Vojvodina, Pravda, 04.02.2012)

The electronic media in Subotica have announced that they will send a protest letter against the new copyright fees of SOKOJ (which are now 3-7 times larger) to the committee of the Government of the Republic of Serbia which has

approved the new fees.

(Vecernje Novosti, Danas, 04.02.2012)

ANEM and SOKOJ will renew negotiations about the amount of copyright fees, ANEM says.

(e-kapija, 07.02.2012)

Legal proceedings are ongoing before the Primary Court in Cacak with the aim to establish the validity of documents presented by Radio-Television of Serbia (RTS) in order to collect the TV fee owed by 300 citizens of Cacak. Lawyers point out that the citizens have no reason to worry since any judgment in favor of RTS would be easy to appeal and annul because the claims are long expired.

(Blic-Srbija, 01.02.2012)

The acting director of Magyar Szo, Djeze Bordas, says that the company, which was suffering losses until two years ago, ended the last year with around 11 million dinars of profit. The National Council of Hungarians will reestablish managing boards in all institutions which it has founded or co-founded.

(Magyar szo, NDNV, 15.02.2012)

After its remaining equipment were been confiscated on the basis of court verdicts related to unpaid salaries of three former cameramen and content editors, TV Valjevo has now been removed from cable networks. The local TV station, whose privatization was annulled in March of the last year, is facing bankruptcy as of 24 February. At the moment, there is only one legal television station in Valjevo – the regional VTV, while cable programme is broadcast by stations Mars and Link. TV Cronik airs a terrestrial signal.

(Blic-Srbija, NUNS, UNS, Pregled, Politika, 14.02.2012)

Privatization and state-owned media

Employees of the weekly magazine Svetlost from Kragujevac have suspended the strike that began a year ago because of unpaid salaries, author fees and contributions. The president of the trade union of journalists working for the magazine, Srdja Rihterovic, said that the employees had suspended the strike as a sign of good will and that they expected that problems will be solved after the annulment of bad privatization. "After the annulment of the contract on privatization in November of the last year, a representative of the state capital has been appointed in Svetlost in mid-January. He is tasked with performing an analysis of the financial situation and proposing a solution to the crisis to the Privatization Agency".

(Beta, Pregled, Pravda, UNS, 10.02.2012)

The media group WAZ is negotiating with various interested parties about the sale of its ownership shares in Serbia, says Paul Binder, the director in charge of corporate communication. "Our decision to leave the Serbian market is final and there have been no changes in our strategy." WAZ has ownership shares in three daily newspapers in Serbia – Politika, Vecernje Novosti and Dnevnik from Novi Sad. At the beginning of the year, the media company sold three of its newspapers in Macedonia, as well as some of its major newspapers in Romania and Bulgaria.

(Blic, e-kapija, Danas, NUNS, UNS, NDNV, 13.02.2012)

Slovenian newspaper Finance reports that Marko Jaklic, the director of the company "Lekarna Ljubljana", which is owned by the city of Ljubljana, bought half of the Belgrade Radio Index together with Franz Henigman, a former member of the management of the Slovenian national insurance company "Vzajemna". The owner of Radio Index, Slovenian citizen Leo Oblak, says that he is trying to convince Marko Jaklic to take over the management of Radio Indeks.

(B92, NUNS, 02.02.2012, Alo!, 03.02.2012)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) calls on the Electrical Power Company of Serbia (EPS) not to jeopardize the freedom of the press and the right of citizens to be informed when cutting off major industrial consumers of electricity. Three days ago, the Electrical Power Company of Novi Sad cut off the power to the printing company Grafoprodukt, which prints more than 10 local, regional and national newspapers, whose availability to their readers is now threatened. UNS suspects that the act of cutting off the electrical power to Grafoprodukt is a form of pressure on the freedom of expression, taking into account the fact that some of the newspapers printed by the company are opposition-oriented.

(UNS, 13.02.2012)

Journalistic trade unions

Research entitled "Trade Unions in the Media" was conducted on the sample of media reports published during nine months (275 days) i.e. three months in 2010 and six months in 2011. The analysis covered nine daily newspapers and four weekly magazines. The research of the media presence of trade unions was preceded by an analysis of researchers' archive that showed two related facts: first, trade unions have very small power in the society; second, people have very low confidence in trade unions. At the presentation of the research "Trade Unions in the Media" to be held on February 27 in the Media Center, journalists will receive a summary of the research and a CD with the complete analytical report.

(MC, 15.02.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) is preparing a final version of mandatory instructions for the media during the election campaign which will stipulate the duration of time slots sold by TV stations to political parties. Judging by what Blic was told by RRA, the rules will be almost identical to the rules that were in force during the previous parliamentary elections. At the time, despite the law that banned paid time slots for political parties, citizens were forced to watch political videos, political meetings and conventions of political parties during no less than ten days i.e. 240 hours. If the same instruction is adopted again, TV stations will be allowed to sell up to 90 minutes of their airtime to political parties each day. The Center for Free Elections and Democracy considers that both the Law on Advertising and the law related to election of members of parliament do not allow sale of airtime to political parties.

(Blic, NUNS, 03.02.2012)

Despite many registered omissions and violations of the law due to the station's bias in favor of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) issued on Friday a broadcasting license to the cable TV station Kopernikus 3 (Svet Plus). Reports delivered to the Council of the RRA dating from January of this year, available to the daily newspaper Blic, say that the programme of Kopernikus 3 has numerous irregularities – from favoring the SNS to "campaigning against the mayor of Belgrade, Dragan Djilas, and the president of Serbia, Boris Tadic" to "illegally broadcasting content related to fortune telling". The RRA acted according to the principle that all stations that are broadcasting should be granted licenses.

(Blic, 06.02.2012)

The fact that TV Kopernikus 3 has a contract with the production company Svet Plus Info, whose owner is allegedly one of the officials of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), should not be a reason to perceive the whole media company and its TV channel as belonging to a political party – this is the opinion of the vice president of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), Goran Karadzic, voiced after media reports that RRA granted a broadcasting license to a party-affiliated TV station.

(Politika, 07.02.2012)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) will probably not react to the incident when the TV host of the show programme "I've Got Talent", Ivana Bajic, put her hand on the crotch of her colleague Vlada Aleksic during the semifinals attended by minors and aired on television. Even the British tabloid, The Mirror, published the video of the act. "This, so-called incident is not so significant to require an urgent session, and our regular session will be held on

Monday. Viewers did not notice that anything happened, except for the person who posted the picture on the Internet, and until it appeared in the print media", said Goran Karadzic, a member of the Council of RRA, to daily newspaper Blic.

(Kurir, Press, Blic, 09.02.2012)

Reacting to the state of emergency proclaimed on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) reminds radio and TV broadcasters licensed to broadcast their programme on the national, regional or local levels, that in accordance with the Law on Broadcasting, the Law on the State of Emergency, and the Code of Conduct of Broadcasters, they are obliged to broadcast all statements related to threats to lives, health, safety or property. Broadcasters are obliged to broadcast announcements of relevant authorities without delay.

(RRA, 06.02.2012)

The Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) has appointed Nenad Djuretic, MA, as a member of the Managing Board of the Broadcasting Agency of Vojvodina.

(RRA, 03.02.2012)

Media-related news

Almost four months after the annulment of privatization of the weekly magazine Svetlost from Kragujevac, the Assembly of Shareholders has elected a new Managing Board. Soon thereafter, the Board appointed the new management of the company. It is uncertain whether the editors, journalists and other employees in the company will manage to prepare the new issue of the magazine on time, mostly because the temporary representative of the state capital in Svetlost recently discovered – after his coming to the editorial office and business premises of the magazine – that a large part of the equipment was missing. The inventory committee has already registered everything that is still owned by the company after the annulled privatization, while the financial position of the magazine, which is already presumed to be disastrous, will soon be fully analyzed. After these steps, it will become clear whether Svetlost actually has a chance for a new start.

(Danas, 06.02.2012)

A special issue of Link, entitled "Pre-Election Reporting" is available here: www.floowie.com/en/read/link-97/#/page/1.

(UNS, 03.02.2012)

Other news

As of today, journalists from Serbia enjoy a 3-10 percent of discount on all flights of Turkish Airlines.

(NUNS, UNS, 13.02.2012)

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- Abbreviations - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations.2317.html#104230
- Sections - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-abbreviations-and-sections.2317.html
- Archive - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin-archive.2381.html
- Media News Bulletin home - www.mc.rs/media-news-bulletin.2298.html

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Media News Bulletin is a short account of media reports on the situation in the media. It has been created with the aim to register the information about the media published in the previous 14 days in Serbia, shortened to reflect the basic message of media reports and grouped in thematic subsections. The editors convey the news without changing the essential meaning of media reports on the media. For the readers interested in the complete published article, its source and date of publishing are given.

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