

Issue No. 13

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The media situation in Serbia

The European Commission has sent to the Government of Serbia its opinion about the Proposal of the Media Strategy. The EC says that it is necessary to ensure editorial and financial independence of state-owned media outlets or to privatize them, as well as to introduce clear criteria for state advertising and implement free market rules in a manner which would prevent concentration of advertising revenue and its monopolistic distribution that could lead to abuse of the dominant position in the market and undesirable influence over the professional and financial integrity of the media. The opinion also points out that sources of financing of the media should be limited to transparent projects in accordance with clear criteria. The European Commission also adds that the ambiguous provision about the possibility of the state purchasing news agencies for its own needs could result in undesirable influence on the media. The EC has also criticized the proposal on founding of six new regional public service broadcasters because of the concern that they would be financially unsustainable due to fierce competition. In addition, the EC opinion states that the provision which allows the councils of national minorities to finance their own media from the national budget is equally problematic because of the political nature of these councils and their potential influence over the media content.

(Press, 23.09.2011)

Latest analyses of the media situation in Serbia

The research "Political and Economic Challenges" conducted by the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) aims to acquire data that would allow the Association to prepare strategic plans for future activities. The acquisition of data was performed in April 2011 on the basis of a sample consisting of 271 journalists from media outlets based in Vojvodina. The subject of the research was the following: (1) the relationship between journalists and NDNV; (2) the relationship between the media and politics; (3) the relationship between the media and the economy; (4) characteristics of the media in minority languages; (5) the attitude of journalists towards new technologies; and (6) the relationship between journalists and journalistic associations. The collected data and the analysis is available for download in PDF format from here: [DATA ANALYSIS – The Media and Journalistic Associations: Political and Economic Challenges \(ANALIZA PODATAKA – Mediji i udruženja novinara: politički i ekonomski izazovi\)](#).

(NDNV, 22.09.2011)

The round table intended to discuss the Report on Pressure and Control Over the Media in Serbia and the conclusions published in the Report by Anti-Corruption Council is organized in cooperation with the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data, the Protector of Citizens and representatives of media associations. Among the speakers at the round table are Verica Barac, the president of the Anti-Corruption Council, Snjezana Milivojevic, a professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Rodoljub Sabic, the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data, Sasa Jankovic, the Protector of Citizens, Ljiljana Smajlovic, the president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) and Vukasin Obradovic, the president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS).

(MC, 29.09.2011)

The state and the media

Serbia should make additional efforts to strengthen the freedom of the media, says the report on situation in Serbia written by the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe, Thomas Hammarberg.

(Blic, 23.09.2011)

Threats, attacks and legal proceedings against journalists, media trials

The president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia, Ljiljana Smajlovic, announced her intention to inform the International Federation of Journalists, the European Federation of Journalists and the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York about the harassment endured by Serbian journalist Viktor Lazic during his journalistic assignment in South Ossetia despite the fact that he possessed a valid journalistic ID. The president of the Independent Journalistic Association of Serbia (NUNS), Vukasin Obradovic, says that "the state has to protect our colleague and prevent such occurrences".

(Press, 16.09.2011)

The secretary-general of the South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO), Oliver Vujovic, called on the government of South Ossetia to explain why they hold the journalist of *Press* newspaper, Viktor Lazic, in custody, and to release him immediately.

(Press, 16.09.2011)

Daily newspaper *Press* asked the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Belgrade, Aleksandar Konuzin, to help in release of its journalist, Viktor Lazic, from custody, but the Ambassador refused to assist because *Press* had insulted him in 2009.

(Press, NUNS, Danas, 16.09.2011)

Press journalist, Viktor Lazic, was released from prison in South Ossetia.

(Press, 17.09.2011)

In his letter sent to the *Pravda* daily newspaper, journalist of the Albanian TV station "Klan", Bojan Bozovic, threatened the editorial office and journalists of the newspaper because they had published his statement in which he said that he knew who killed the member of the ROSU special unit.

(Pravda, UNS, 16.09.2011)

The Association of Sport Journalists of Serbia (USNS) and the Journalists' Association of Serbia have strongly condemned the acts of the deputy president of the Football Club Novi Pazar, Tarik Imamovic, who forbid the correspondent of the newspaper *Sportski Zurnal* to report from the club's matches. Kucevic was also threatened with "liquidation" if he continued to report on the Novi Pazar football club.

(FoNet, Danas, 23.09.2011)

Journalist of *Nove Knjizevacke Novine* newspaper, Sasa Todorovic, was banned from attending the public debate organized by the United Regions of Serbia (URS) under the title "Better Life for the City of Knjizevac". The incident occurred in plain sight of the leader of URS, Mladjan Dinkic.

(Pravda, Politika, NUNS, UNS, 26.09.2011)

The Serbian People's Movement "Nasi" called the public's attention and pointed out that the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) had been transformed into a center of Euro-Atlantic media manipulation and that NUNS was making a mockery of the journalistic profession and contaminating the media scene of Serbia by promoting the Gay Pride ideology.

(www.nasisrbija.org, NUNS, 25.09.2011)

Non-governmental organization Sandzak Council for Protection of Human Rights and Freedom filed criminal charges against the e-newspaper *Sandzak Press* because the NVO and its president, Semiha Kacar, had been "exposed to public ridicule, libel and insults by readers of the *Sandzak Press*".

(Danas, NUNS, 15.09.2011)

The chief mufti of the Islamic Community in Serbia, Muamer Zukorlic, announced his intention to sue all media outlets in Serbia that had published the accusations and insults "allegedly" made by the organization "Otpor Sandzaka" ("Sandzak Resistance"), which Zukorlic believed was non-existent.

(Politika, 25.09.2011, UNS, NUNS, Danas, 26.09.2011)

The Commercial Court in Novi Sad ordered SBB to immediately continue broadcasting the programme of the TV station *Kanal 9* because the Article 16 of the Law on Public Information stipulates that public media distributors cannot refuse to distribute a public media outlet without a justifiable commercial reason, nor to impose conditions that are contrary to market principles.

(UNS, 27.09.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly condemns the physical assault on the TV Tutin crew and demands the authorities identify and punish the attackers. Journalist Mersid Agovic and cameraman Tufik Sadovic were attacked in downtown Tutin by four attackers who had previously provoked the TV team. The most appalling thing is the fact that the police failed to adequately react; only the TV Tutin crew was taken to the police station in order to give their statements about the incident.

(NUNS, Danas, Pravda, Kurir, 28.09.2011)

The Media Strategy

The media sector welcomes the achieved harmonization of the proposed Media Strategy of Serbia but considers that its provisions related to regional public service broadcasters are completely unacceptable and practically unsustainable.

(Fonet, Beta, Blic, NUNS, NDNV, Večernje novosti, B92, Press, 15.09.2011)

The Minister of Culture, Predrag Markovic, did not announce when the Government of Serbia would adopt the Media Strategy, but he reaffirmed that the Strategy would be presented to the National Parliament of Serbia before its adoption.

(Beta, 15.09.2011)

The Coordinator for Public Relations of the Government of Serbia, Slobodan Homen, announced that the Government would adopt the proposal of the Media Strategy until October 1. He pointed out that the most important issue was to ensure that the document was harmonized with European standards before the adoption.

(Tanjug, Beta, Politika, Pregled, Pravda, Blic, Večernje Novosti, 23.09.2011)

A member of the working group for preparation of the media strategy, is of the opinion that the state has been violating the law for six years and that it would continue to violate it if the harmonized proposal of the Media Strategy was adopted. "The state has failed to privatized media outlets financed from the budget, and at the same time intends to found new local and regional media outlets, as well as media outlets of national minority councils", says Veljanovski. "The state owns 50 percent of *Politika* and *Dnevnik* newspapers each, as well as 30 percent of daily newspaper *Novosti*. Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) is broadcasting the sessions of the National Parliament of Serbia due to political pressure. All these things are illegal. Instead of selling its ownership share in these media outlets, the state intends to adopt the Media Strategy which would allow creation of local and regional media outlets."

(Blic, UNS, NUNS, 16.09.2011)

In his article published by the newspaper Danas, Jan Briza says: "The biggest flaw in the Media Strategy is certainly the large number of compromises that have been made during its preparation and harmonization due to the conflict between various political interests and professional organizations. In this way, the attempt to introduce rules and norms in the chaotic media scene of Serbia has been seriously jeopardized at its very beginning."

(Danas, 28.09.2011)

Media outlets of national minorities

National Councils of national minorities are allowed to found media outlets in languages of national minorities – stipulates the final draft of the Media Strategy. The proposed Strategy also states that minority media outlets can exist in the form of commercial media, civil society media outlets, or media outlets of National Councils of national minorities.

(Danas 15.09.2011)

The director of Panon RTV, a regional media company operating in Hungarian language and headquartered in the city of Subotica, Rudolf Mihok, was removed from his position. The decision was made by the Assembly of its founder, the Panon Foundation. The vice president of the Hungarian National Council and a member of the Assembly of the Panon Foundation, Ferenc Zoldos, said that one of the reasons for the decision was the interruption of the TV broadcasting from Palic on August 20 of the celebration of the Hungarian national holiday dedicated to the founder of the state and the first king of Hungary, king Istvan. In accordance with the Law on National Councils, the Hungarian National Council became a co-founder of RTV Panon during the last year and now has its representatives in the station's management.

(Tanjug, Dnevnik, Pravda, Večernje Novosti 21.09.2011)

This is the second case of dismissal of an editor in Hungarian media outlets. In the beginning of summer, the editor-in-chief of *Magyar Szo*, Caba Presburger, was removed from his position due to similar reasons. In their letter to the Minister of Culture, Hungarian intellectuals said that the events in the media scene of national minorities proved that national councils had a monopoly over these media outlets and that they often operate as nothing more than a mouthpiece of political parties of national minorities or elites.

(Dnevnik, 21.09.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) pointed out that dismissals of editors in Hungarian-language media outlets were continuing, and demanded that "the arbitrariness of national councils' decisions related to media outlets founded by them be limited". They propose that the Media Strategy should include modifications to the Law on National Councils of National Minorities aimed at limiting the arbitrary decisions of national councils.

(Beta, Politika, Danas, Dnevnik, NUNS, Blic, 22.09.2011)

Excerpts from the document entitled "Proposal of the Media Strategy for Media Outlets in Hungarian Language 2011-2016", made by the Hungarian National Council of Vojvodina, reminded me of the infamous days of the rule of Slobodan Milosevic – writes Teofil Pancic. "Among the bright ideas presented in the document, one of the most glaring is the proposal that the Hungarian National Council should gain founding rights over the Hungarian-language editorial offices in Radio-Television Vojvodina, i.e. the public service broadcaster of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The Strategy also states that the role and mission of such media is to 'play an important role in achievement of cohesion within the community and restoration of community values'; the media are expected 'to report on national holidays, significant dates and symbols of the Hungarian nation in Vojvodina, preservation and strengthening of the religious identity, and the culture of religious communities'. How is this to be achieved? The Strategy states that 'reporting has to be performed not only in Hungarian language, but in accordance with the

'Hungarian spirit'. The concept of the national spirit is the birthplace of every fascism" – writes Pancic.
(Vreme, NUNS, NDNV, 22.09.2011)

The president of the Association of Hungarian Journalists of Vojvodina, Livia Tot, strongly criticized the Draft Media Strategy prepared by the Hungarian National Council and pointed out that the document demonstrates the desire of the National Council to interfere with the activities of editors. The editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine *Caladi Ker*, Ana Fridrih, said that the Draft Strategy indicates that "difficult times" await Hungarian journalism in Vojvodina.
(Beta, NUNS, NDNV, B92, 27.09.2011)

In its editorial column, the daily newspaper *Magyar Szo* sharply criticized the Hungarian National Council and individual politicians, and pointed out that the newspaper's editors were often exposed to politicians' pressure. With regard to the recent dismissal of the director of RTV Panon, Rudolf Mihok, the newspaper said that it was "strongly pressured" to refrain from publishing the letter written by the dismissed editor. The newspaper also described threats of lawsuits against journalists, as well as phone calls to editors by an official from the Hungarian National Council. "It seems that they can already do anything, they can issue instructions over the phone, make threats or peddle their personal ideas about the editorial policy. They treat our public institutions as their private property". The newspaper also published the names of the individuals who had attempted to exert pressure on its editors.
(Beta, NUNS, RTV, NDNV, 26.09.2011)

A professor of English languages in the High School of Engineering in Pozarevac, Jelena Popovic-Ivanovic, allegedly spread hatred against homosexuals via her Facebook page and openly incited violence against them. The professor wrote that she disagreed with the idea that minorities and the majority people should have equal rights, and that promoters of tolerance were "deviants".
(Radio 021, 21.09.2011)

Professional standards

Every publicly spoken or written word entails accountability, it was pointed out during the discussion organized by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) in cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia. It was also emphasized that the accountability for public statements was the same regardless of whether they were spoken or written on an interactive network.

(NUNS, 23.09.2011, Dnevnik, Kurir, 24.09.2011)

As of today, people whose rights have been violated and who have been personally offended by reports published in print media will have a chance to complain to the Press Council. The founders of the first self-regulatory body for the print media in Serbia to be concerned with the Journalistic Code of Conduct are the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), the Media Association and Local Press. Dragan Bujosevic is the president of the Managing Board of the Press Council.

(Beta, Politika, Danas, Press, NUNS, Blic, 16.09.2011)

After a public contest, the Press Council has appointed Gordana Novakovic the secretary general of the Council. Gordana Novakovic is a journalist with many years of experience who has spent most of its career working for the daily newspaper *Politika*.

(Danas, NUNS, 27.09.2011, ASMEDI Newsletter No. 159)

During the first ten days after the beginning of activities of the Press Council in Serbia, the Complaint Committee of the Council received two complaints related to content published in the print media, says Gordana Novakovic.

(Danas, 27.09.2011)

Statistical data collected by the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance show that journalists have submitted 400 complaints against the Ministry of Finance because of its refusal to give information. The complaints have been filed by officials from journalistic associations and journalists from newspapers *Politika, Blic, Danas, Kurir, A/0...* It is only slightly comforting that the requested but denied information was subsequently released after the Commissioner's interventions in around 95 percent of the cases.

(Politika, 16.09.2011)

Awards, training courses and competitions

The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program at the Washington, D.C.-based National Endowment for Democracy invites applications for fellowships in 2012-2013.

(NDNV, 20.09.2011)

The UNICEF Office in Serbia has announced a public contest for the annual award for media reporting on children and their rights. The deadline for submission of works is November 5, 2011.

(MC, 27.09.2011)

A newly established Foundation "Dusan Bogavac" will present journalistic awards for ethics and courage. The Foundation will also launch the Fund "Dusan Bogavac" for scholarships to gifted students of journalism. The president of the Assembly of the Fund is journalist Filip Mladenovic.

(NUNS, 28.09.2011)

From November 9th till November 12th 2011, in Novi Sad, at the premises of Radio Novi Sad, "Radio-Televizija Vojvodine" will be hosting 13th TAKTONS, the international competition of sound engineers. This year, sound

engineers from the following Media will compete: Radio-Television of Slovenia, Croatian Radio-Television, Radio-Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Radio-Television of Republic Srpska, Austrian Radio, MTVA-Hungarian Radio, Radio-Television of Slovakia, Macedonian Radio-Television, Radio-Television of Montenegro, Romanian Radio, Radio-Television of Serbia, and the hosting Radio-Television of Vojvodina. For more detailed and up-to-date information, please, visit our website: www.taktons.org.

(Taktons, 28.09.20112)

Visits to the media

Delegation of the All-China Journalists' Association visited yesterday the editorial office of the daily newspaper *Dnevnik* as a part of its cooperation with the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS). The delegation was comprised of editors of four major Chinese newspapers, who also visited Radio-Television Vojvodina.

(Dnevnik, NUNS, 22.09.2011)

The secretary-general of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Nino Brajovic, met with the four-member delegation of the All-China Journalists' Association in the premises of the UNS.

(UNS, NUNS, 22.09.2011)

Members of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency had a meeting with the representatives of the Monitoring Committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

(Blic, 23.09.2011)

The Tourist Organization of Serbia will organize a visit by Italian journalists from the most prestigious Italian print media *Il Giornale*, *Il Style* (a supplement to *Corriere della Sera*), *La Repubblica*, *Il Riformista*.

(www.srbija.travel, 23.09.2011)

The media audience

A Facebook page dedicated to open discussion about the media has been created under the title "*5parazamedije*" at the following link: www.facebook.com/5parazamedije.

(BIRN Srbija, MC 22.10.2011)

Media transfers

A popular TV host and media representative of TV Pink, Tatjana Vojtehovski, has decided to leave the Pink Media Group company after nearly a decade of employment. Her announcement – delivered to all media outlets – says that her decision was caused solely by personal reasons and that she remains "loyal to her moral and professional principles". The owner of Pink, Zeljko Mitrovic, said to *Blic* newspaper that the door of his company will always remain open for Tatjana Vojtehovski.

(Blic, 28.09.2011)

Anniversaries

The first issue of *Blic* daily newspaper was published on this very day 15 years ago.

(Blic, NUNS, 16.09.2011)

The free daily newspaper "24 Sata" ("24 Hours") celebrated its fifth birthday on September 18.

(Alo!, UNS, 19.09.2011)

The oldest local media outlet, Radio Kikinda, has celebrated 20 years of its existence. The local radio station broadcasts programme in Serbian, Hungarian, Romanian and Romany languages. It has 20 employees and is

financed by the local self-government.

(Politika, NUNS, 23.09.2011)

In Memoriam

A longtime journalist and the editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine *Nasa Rec*, Milisav Marinkovic, died in Leskovac at the age of 82. He was a teacher to many renowned journalists from Leskovac.

(Juzne vesti 23.09.2011)

The doyen of news agency journalism in Serbia and former Yugoslavia, and a longtime editor and correspondent of FoNet, Tanjug and News from Frankfurt, Milenko Babic Babac, died in Belgrade at the age of 72. He was also a contributor to the weekly magazine NIN.

(Fonet, NUNS, MC, 25.09.2011)

Media business operations

A statement issued by TV SANTOS: "TV SANTOS has found out that a pirate TV station, KTV from Zrenjanin, enjoys all rights of a legal broadcaster despite its illegal status, while at the same time it has no obligations toward the state and the Republic budget, which has received a large amount of money from RTV SANTOS. As a legal broadcaster, TV SANTOS has paid more than 18,700,00.00 dinars to the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL), Serbian Music Authors' Organization (SOKOJ) and Organization of Phonogram Producers of Serbia (OFPS) between 2008 and 2011. The pirate TV station, KTV, has not paid any of these obligations and constitutes unfair competition."

(„Santos-Commerce“, 13.09.2011, NDNV, 12.09.2011)

At the moment, 56 stations in Serbia broadcast their programme illegally, among them 47 radio stations and nine TV channels, says the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL). Most of the illegal broadcasters are located in Vojvodina.

(NDNV, 19.09.2011)

Twenty workers from the printing branch of "Dnevnik Holding" from Novi Sad, who have been on strike for several weeks, demanded that the Government of Vojvodina help them to receive 11 unpaid salaries and health insurance that have been lacking for 19 months.

(Vecernje Novosti, 17.09.2011)

A longtime editor-in-chief of "Politikin Zabavnik", Zefirino Grasi, will act as the general director of "Politika a.d." after the resignation of the previous general director, Milorad Gusavac, from his position.

(Politika, NUNS 19.09.2011)

The director of the news agency Tanjug, Branka Djukic, denied the report published by *Vecernje Novosti* daily newspaper about "high indebtedness" of Tanjug. The report was published on September 26, 2011 under the title "Higher Debt, Bigger Salaries".

(Vecernje Novosti, 28.09.2011)

Privatization and state-owned media outlets

The Anti-Corruption Council of the Government of Serbia demanded that the Government protect the interest of the state, which owns 36.2 percent of the *Novosti* company. The Council also demanded that the Government eliminate doubts that the majority owner of the media company, Milan Beko, is usurping state property with the state's consent. The statement issued by the Council says that the Government established in 2006 that the illegal registration of the ownership structure of the company *Novosti* with the court register had violated the ownership rights of the state and ordered the Ministry of Economy to analyze the ownership structure and to suspend all activities related to issuance of *Novosti* stocks until the completion of the analysis. "The failure of the Ministry of Finance to obey the Government's order; the behavior of the Republic Public Legal Advisor during the litigation with *Novosti* in relation to the 'Borba' building; and the fact that the Ministry of Economy failed to act, allowing the *Novosti* company to usurp the property of the Printing Company *Borba*, are examples of negligence", says the Council.

(Beta, Pravda, Pregled, NUNS, 16.09.2011)

The Constitutional Court of Serbia rejected the complaint filed by Austrian company Ost Holding against the Committee for Protection of Competition. Two years ago, Ost Holding, which is owned by the German media

company VAC, asked the Committee for Protection of Competition to approve its acquisition of 62.4 percent of stocks of *Novosti* company. In July of this year, the Committee suspended the proceedings until the Constitutional Court decides on the company's complaint.

(Beta, Danas, Dnevnik, Pregled, Večernje Novosti, Blic, 28.09.2011)

Ever since the first attempt at privatization of Radio Sombor, one of the oldest local electronic media in Serbia has not managed to fully recover and its future is uncertain. In August of this year, after the dismissal of the representative of state capital, Anita Beretic, the Republic Privatization Agency appointed Viorika Blazin from Zrenjanin as the new representative of its majority share in Radio Sombor. However, she has not visited Sombor to this day. In this way, soon after her appointment, Radio Sombor remained without any person authorized to sign any document, payment order or bill.

(Dnevnik, 22.09.2011)

According to confirmed information from the Republic Privatization Agency, a new person has been appointed to represent the state capital in Radio Sombor. The majority share of stocks in Radio Sombor will be represented by Bojan Djurovic from Novi Sad, born in 1978.

(Dnevnik, 23.09.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) supports the human rights organizations' demand from the Ministry of Internal Affairs that the Pride Parade be allowed to take place in Belgrade on October 2.

(NUNS, Blic, Press, Danas, NDNV, B92 26.09.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has announced the launch of the project "More Transparency in Local Self-Governments – Citizens' Right and Obligation of the State" within the initiative "Support to Civil Society" organized by the Delegation of European Union in Serbia. Four newspapers cooperate in the project: *Kikindske* from Kikinda, *Cacanske* from Cacak, *Grad* from Krusevac and *Polimlje* from Prijepolje.

(NUNS, 19.09.2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV)

The press conference entitled "The Pride Parade Belgrade 2011 – Political or Human Rights Issue" will be held on Monday, 9 September 2011 in the Media Center Vojvodina.

(NDNV 16.09.2011)

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL)

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) has published a list of 47 radio stations and nine TV stations from 31 cities and villages in Serbia and Vojvodina which are broadcasting programme without any license.

(Beta, Pravda, 19.09.2011)

In accordance with its legal authority, the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) has initiated appropriate procedures for sanctioning of radio stations which do not have individual licenses for usage of radio frequencies or broadcasting of programme. In comparison with Decembar of the last year, the number of stations that broadcast their programme without a license has increased, although the number of pirate stations had been decreasing up to that point. By the end of the last year, there were 46 illegal stations in Serbia, while during the previous two years 161 pirate stations were closed. RATEL has registered 181 pirate broadcaster with 211 frequencies since September 2008, at the beginning of the campaign to close unlicensed radio and TV stations. The number of illegal broadcasters keeps changing every day, because many stations simply break the official seal preventing the usage of their facilities and equipment and continue broadcasting.

(Vecernje Novosti, 17.09.2011, Beta, Press, Danas, NDNV, NUNS, UNS, Alo!, 19.09.2011)

For the first time during a regular parliamentary session, the members of the National Parliament will discuss the report on activities of the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) in the last year. The competent Committee proposed that the Parliament adopt the RATEL report and its plan for the year 2011.

(Dnevnik, UNS, 19.09.2011)

For the purpose of updating of data kept by the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL), it is necessary that each holder of general approvals issued in accordance with previous regulations deliver a filled and signed OB Form that is available on the web site of the Agency: Instructions and Forms for Internet Service Providers. The deadline for delivery of filled forms expires 15 days after the publication of the request.

(RATEL, 23.09.2011)

Media Innovations

Mobile web sites, online editions of newspapers and social networks will not replace the traditional media. We will keep reading newspapers, listening to radio news and watching key TV programmes. The new media will complement the traditional media forms, but will not replace them – says Steve Hermann, the editor-in-chief of the BBC News web site, who will speak at the regional New Media Summit organized by ABC Serbia.

(Blic, UNS, 17.09.2011)

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the *Blic* newspaper, the editors temporarily transferred their responsibilities to public figures. The political section of the anniversary issue of the newspaper was edited by Vincent Deger, the Head of the EU Office in Belgrade, while the international section was edited by Armando Varicchio, the Ambassador of Italy in Belgrade. The economy, entertainment and cultural sections were edited by the Governor of the National Bank of Serbia, Dejan Soskic, singer Zdravko Colic, and the director of the Philharmonic Orchestra, Ivan Tasovac, respectively. Sport section was edited by the captain of the female volleyball representation, Jelena Nikolic.

(Blic onlajn, UNS, 16.09.2011, Blic, 17.09.2011)

Citizens who are dissatisfied with reports of the traditional media, which in their opinion have often failed to report on truly important social issues, now have a chance to offer their own views on the multimedia portal www.mojavest.com. High-quality reports will be published in online and traditional media outlets. The web site will offer the best reports by citizens to TV stations and the press in South Slavic countries. The first Serbian agency for citizen journalism *Moja Vest* is a media project implemented by the organization *Integracija SADA* strategically partnered by the news agency FoNet. The project is supported by the Embassy of the USA in Belgrade.

(MC, 22.09.2011, Danas, NUNS, 27.09.2011, Kurir, 28.09.2011)

TV series "Europe At Work", produced by news agency Beta, will begin airing on Sunday, 25 September on TV B92 and the station's Info channel. Ten episodes of the series were recorded in 20 cities in Serbia and are dedicated to the most important issues requiring reforms which are crucial for Serbian integration with the EU. The series covers the areas of judiciary, power generation, education, health care, economy, agriculture, infrastructural ecology, human rights and the media.

(Danas, 23.09.2011)

TV Happy will begin airing new contents within its autumn programme schedule as of October 1, 2011. TV Happy airs a family-oriented collage programme and has a national frequency. In the last year, the station won the award "The Belgrade Victor" for the most promising TV station, as well as the "Vienna Popularity Award" for the best-rated Serbian TV channel in the diaspora.

(TV Happy, 27.09.2011)

Digitalization

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) and the Republic Agency for Electronic Communication (RATEL) have harmonized their opinions about the issues of illegal broadcasting, digitalization of TV programme and the obligation to transmit the programme of domestic broadcasters within cable systems, it was announced yesterday. Members of the Council of the RRA and the Managing Board of RATEL expressed their concern because of the fact that legally stipulated inspection of usage of radio frequencies – aimed at prevention of illegal broadcasting – has not yet begun, one year after the adoption of the Law on Electronic Communication.

(Beta, Danas, NUNS, 17.09.2011)

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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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