



# MEDIA NEWS BULLETIN

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### Assessments of the current media situation in Serbia

The media situation in Serbia has worsened since 2006, shows the Media Sustainability Index (MSI) for the year of 2010 issued by IREX, an American NGO for support to the media. The largest drop is evident in the area of business management, which is the result of the serious economic crisis that has affected the media. More details are available at the web site [www.irex.org](http://www.irex.org).

*(Fonet, B92, NUNS, 13/05/2011)*

Hate speech is still present in the media, and the media continue to create new celebrities, abuse experts and work to spread panic – these are the conclusions of the event "Ethics in the Media" moderated by Milena Dragicevic Sestic, a professor at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts. Ana Stevanovic spoke about the economic and political influence on the media and emphasized that the director of the TV Pink holds the top position on the list of 100 most influential people in Serbia, while the second and third place are occupied by the director of the Radio-Television Serbia (RTS) and the director of marketing of the "Delta" company (due to funds allocated to advertising by the company), respectively.

*(Politika, NUNS, 19/05/2011)*

The state should not participate in the activities of the Press Council in any way, because the organisation is a self-regulatory body of publishers and journalists – this is the conclusion reached by the round table "The Media in Serbia" that was organized by the Tanjug news agency. However, a member of the working group for preparation of the media strategy, Danilo Nikolic, pointed out that publishers would not be able to financially support the activities of the Press Council until 2014 due to the effects of the crisis, and that the state should provide such support during the first two years.

*(Danas, 17/05/2011)*

The president of the Journalists' Union of Serbia, Dragana Cabarkapa, said that the position of the media in Serbia is now worse than during the nineties of the last century, and accused employers of preventing the establishment of a social dialogue and conclusion of a branch-wide collective contract with media employees.

*(Beta, Politika, 20/05/2011)*

### The Media Strategy

On the basis of the Protocol concluded between the Ministry of Culture, Informing and Information Society and six media associations (the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia – NUNS, the Journalists' Association of Serbia – UNS, the Association of Independent Electronic Media – ANEM, the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina – NDNV, the Media Association and Local Press), an expert working group has been formed tasked with preparing and proposing as of June 1, 2011 the Draft Strategy of Development of the Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia Until 2016 together with an action plan for its implementation. Members of the working group are Rade Veljanovski, Slobodan Kremenjak, Dragoljub Zarković, Zoran Sekulic, Danilo Nikolic, Jelena Surculija and Igor Avzner

*(The Ministry of Culture, Informing and Information Society, 16/05/2011, Dnevnik, 17/05/2011)*

A new media strategy, announced for June 1, is intended to permanently regulate the role of the state in the media field, among other things, said the participants of Tanjug's round table "The Media in Serbia".

*(Tanjug, 16/05/2011, Politika, 17/05/2011)*

A member of the working group for preparation of the media strategy, Danilo Nikolic, said at the round table "The Media in Serbia" that a draft strategy would be delivered to the Ministry of Culture and Informing as of June 1, after

which an expert public debate should follow.

*(Novosti, 17/05/2011)*

### **Media-related legal proceedings**

Revolted by the verdict against the attacker on the TV B92 cameraman, who was sentenced to only 10 months of house arrest, Zeljko Ivanji, a member of the Serbian parliament and a member of the legal committee of the Council of Europe, announced that he would apply for a political asylum if such legal practice continues. Other members of parliament also condemned double standards demonstrated by judges.

*(Alo!, 11/05/2011)*

The First Primary Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade will appeal the verdict against Milan Savatovic, the attacker on Bosko Brankovic, a TV B92 cameraman. Savatovic was sentenced to eight months of house arrest.

*(Tanjug, Blic, 24 sata, 11/05/2011; Danas, Politika, Kurir, Dnevnik, Pravda, NUNS, UNS, 12/05/2011)*

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Ivica Dacic, said that sentences against attackers on journalists could be more severe than demonstrated in the case of assault on the TV B92 cameraman, Bosko Brankovic, if journalists were to have a status of official persons.

*(Blic, Alo!, Politika, Kurir, NUNS, UNS, 11/05/2011)*

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) is extremely concerned about the fact that the Vice President of the Government of Serbia and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Ivica Dacic, is not aware that almost two years ago the Criminal Code was amended and that journalists already have the status of persons who perform a mission of public importance, says the Association's announcement.

*(Politika, 12/05/2011)*

The owner of Radio Fox, Caslav Milanovic, has won the legal dispute initiated by him in September 2008 against the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA). Due to a material violation of the procedure of issuance of licenses for frequencies, the Administrative Court has annulled the decision made by the RRA and ordered the procedure to be repeated.

*(Dnevnik, NUNS, 11/05/2011)*

The Municipal Court in Novi Sad has passed a verdict that "obliges the defendant", the "Novosti" company, to pay damages to the claimant, Tomislav Djordjevic, for intangible damage in the amount of 70,000 dinars due to "suffered emotional pain caused by harm to dignity and reputation resulting from publishing of untrue and prohibited information in the article entitled "Beaten Because of Stocks".

*(Večernje Novosti, 14/05/2011)*

The Court of Appeals in Belgrade has annulled the first-instance verdict against Milos Mladenovic and Danilo Zuza, who were sentenced to three months of prison each for their attack on journalist of the "Vreme" weekly magazine, Teofil Pancic, and ordered a new trial.

*(Tanjug, Blic, Press, Večernje Novosti, Pravda, Alo!, 19.05.2011)*

Teofil Pancic, a journalist for the "Vreme" weekly, said that the Court of Appeals in Belgrade annulled the "bad verdict" against attackers on him, who had been sentenced to three months of imprisonment each, but that he could understand the reason for the annulment. "I do not question the decision, but I wonder whether the motive behind it was the desire to establish the truth, or to additionally reduce the already low sentence", said Pancic.

*(Beta, Danas, Boom 93, Politika, Kurir, Dnevnik, 19/05/2011)*

The Minister of Justice, Snezana Malovic, announced in Pozarevac that she would do everything in her power to investigate the political background of the murder of the Prime Minister, Zoran Djindjic, as well as the murders of journalists Dada Vujasinovic and Slavko Curuvija.

*(Alo!, Dnevnik, Danas, NUNS, UNS, 16/05/2011)*

Instead of explaining the abuse of taxpayers' money, the Minister of Infrastructure and Energy, Milutin Mrkonjic, announced that he would sue the "Alo!" magazine because of the article claiming that the Ministry of Infrastructure spent for other purposes the funds intended for non-governmental organisations in 2008.

*(Alo!, 21/05/2011)*

The Republic Public Prosecutor's Office sued an independent regulatory body – the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance, Rodoljub Sabic, reports the Blic newspaper. The Prosecutor's Office demands annulment of the Commissioner's decision ordering the Higher Court to deliver original transcripts of legal proceedings to a defendant in a legal case.

*(NUNS, Blic, 25/05/2011)*

### **The Baletic case**

The editor-in-chief of the TV Novi Sad, Ljubisa Nikolin, commented on the critical opinions about the new programme authored by a former war journalist, Milijana Baletic, and said that the journalist had not been rehabilitated and that she had been returned to her workplace by a court order.

*(Dnevnik, 19/05/2011)*

"I have been under attack and abused for 20 years because I have reported on events objectively, without trying to hide the truth", says Milijana Baletic to "Alo!" in her response to media associations' claim that her return to the RTV Vojvodina is a disgrace to journalism.

*(Alo!, 11/05/2011)*

Nenad Canak, the leader of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina, criticized the fact that none of the journalists who acted as warmongers during the nineties has been held accountable by the Hague Tribunal or the domestic courts for inciting to war crimes.

*(Blic, NUNS, 12/05/2011)*

The Prosecutor's Office for War Crimes is seriously investigating the criminal charges relating to warmongering propaganda that were brought by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) against unidentified journalists, confirmed the Prosecutor's Office. The issue has become a hot topic again after the broadcasting of a programme authored by Milijana Baletic on the RTV.

*(Danas, 11/05/2011)*

### **Attacks on the media and journalists**

Kurir

A journalist for the Kurir daily newspaper, Ivona Palada, who is five months pregnant, and a photo reporter, Damir Dervisagic, who were investigating the information about a false adoption of a baby by a singer, Ana Nikolic, were verbally and physically attacked by Z. P. (52), the owner of the house where parents of the child live.

*(Kurir, Blic, NUNS, 12/05/2011)*

While investigating the story about new abuses committed by the recently arrested businessman, Radosav Savatijevec Kene, a journalist and photo reporter working for the Kurir daily were attacked with rocks. They managed to escape thanks to their skillful driver. Ljiljana Smajlovic, the president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia

(UNS), strongly condemned the latest of the attacks against the journalists of Kurir.

*(Kurir, 20/05/2011)*

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Ivica Dacic, condemned the attack on the team of Kurir newspaper. "An assault on journalists is an assault on the truth and democracy. I offer my full support to journalists in their everyday work", said Dacic.

*(Kurir, 12/05/2011)*

Kovacica

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) sharply denounces the physical attack and nationalistic insults committed by an official of the Serbian Progressive Party, Zoran Savanov, against the editor-in-chief of the RTV Kovacica, Gojko Vukadin, and the station's cameraman, Danijel Hajko, and demands immediate response by the police and judiciary.

*(UNS 19/05/2011)*

In their response to the attack on the director and the editor-in-chief and a cameraman of the RTV Kovacica, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) warn the Ministry of Internal Affairs and all state bodies that attack against journalists have become commonplace after the state and the judiciary sent a message to the public that it is allowed to beat or insult journalists without with impunity or with minimal penalties.

*(NUNS i NDNV, 19/05/2011)*

During a public event "Gulasijada" that took place in Debeljaca on May 14, members of the Municipal Assembly of Kovacica condemned the assault on the team working for the RTV Kovacica and demanded the investigative and judicial bodies to issue a report on the progress of the investigation.

*(Dnevnik, 23/05/2011)*

Bujanovac

Nedzat Beljulji, the owner of the local radio and TV station "Spektri", was physically attacked in Bujanovac by Agim Zeka Isljami, the chief of the office of the Party for Democratic Action (PDD) and a coordinator of the local Human Rights Committee. The police in Bujanovac was informed about the incident and conducted an investigation. The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) denounced the attack and demanded that the authorities prosecute the attacker in accordance with the provisions of the amended Criminal Code. The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) demanded that the perpetrator be punished.

*(NUNS, UNS, Pravda, 16/05/2011)*

The victim of the assault, Nedzat Beljulji, said that he hoped that in at least in this case, where the attacker and the circumstances of the attack are known, the reformed judiciary would not find any mitigating circumstances. "This has been the sixth attack in four years. No one has been held accountable. We demand that the state protect us because we are only doing our job professionally."

*(Blic, Politika, Kurir, NUNS, UNS, 16/05/2011, Danas, 17/05/2011)*

Journalists working for RTV "Spektra" and Nedzat Beljulji himself have already been under pressure of the local authorities because of their critical reports related to the activities of the municipal administration, and especially to the employment of workers in the local self-government and expenditure of budget funds.

*(Danas, 17/05/2011)*

The owner of a local radio and TV station "Spektri", Nedzat Beljulji, who was physically assaulted by an official of the Party for Democratic Action (PDD), Agim Zeka Isljami, requests police protection.

*(Blic, 17/05/2011)*

#### Kula

Although the municipal administration of Kula has promised that there would be no more problems related to issuance of accreditations for reporting from sessions of the Municipal Assembly, the director of TV Kula, Dragan Jovanovic, was not allowed to enter the assembly hall yesterday. Members of the Municipal Assembly for the Socialist Party of Serbia–One Serbia voiced their protest and emphasized that they "would not participate in future sessions until all journalists are allowed to enter the hall".

*(Vecernje Novosti, NUNS, 14/05/2011)*

#### Other attacks

Secretary-general of the football club "Vojvodina", Radisav Rabrenovic, verbally attacked journalists who asked him to comment on the match and the decision of his team to leave the football field.

*(Kurir, NUNS, UNS, 12/05/2011)*

The Association of Sport Journalists of Serbia strongly condemns the verbal attack and the attempt to physically assault a journalist for Sportski Zurnal, Aleksandar Joksic, who was attacked by the secretary-general of the football club "Vojvodina" after the final game of the Serbian Cup.

*(Kurir, 18/05/2011)*

On Saturday, May 21, before the beginning of a handball match of the Super League, journalist Mujo Bjelopoljac was assaulted by a "Priboj" club handball player, Milan Ivanovic, because of the article published in "Sportski Zurnal". The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) strongly condemns the attack.

*(UNS, 23/05/2011)*

Zoran Ateljevic, a lawyer, warned journalists and media owners that he would initiate civil legal proceedings against media owners and demand damages, and bring criminal charges against responsible persons in the media, if they continue reporting on his client, Milo Djuraskovic, the owner of the "Nibens" Group, who is suspected of causing a damage to the company "FAM" from Krusevac in the amount of 32 million euros.

*(Politika, 19/05/2011)*

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has condemned the latest damaging of the memorial plate located at the place where journalist Slavko Curuvija was murdered on April 11, 1999. Unidentified vandals have removed the table that was placed below the memorial plate at the entrance to the building at 35 Svetogorska Street. The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia demands that the police conduct an investigation and identify the perpetrators of the theft, while journalistic associations have expressed their revolt because of the repeated desecration of the memorial.

*(NUNS, 20/05/2011, Danas, Blic, Pravda, 21/05/2011)*

### **ASMEDI becomes a member of the NPA**

At their annual assembly held in Warsaw, members of the European Newspaper Publishers Association (ENPA) have unanimously accepted the Media Association (ASMEDI) from Serbia as a new member of the society of European national associations of newspaper publishers. The ENPA brings together national associations of newspaper publishers from 23 countries.

*(Dnevnik, Politika, Vecernje Novosti, Press, 24/05/2011)*

### **Assembly of the European Federation of Journalists to be held in Belgrade**

The Assembly of the European Federation of Journalists will take place in Belgrade on June 15-17 in the Hotel M, it was announced at a press conference. It is expected that around hundred representatives of journalistic and trade union organisations from Europe will attend the event, which will be hosted by the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) and the Journalists' Union.

*(Danas, Blic, 20/05/2011)*

### **The media audience**

Since August 2009, when the regional daily online newspaper "Southern News" ("Juzne Vesti") first began its trial operations, the web site has achieved more than 3 million visited pages, as evidenced by Google Analytics. In this period, the "Southern News" web site has attracted a 1,200,000 visitors and in a short time managed to become by far the most visited news web site from south Serbia with an average of 6,000 daily visits in May, says Predrag Blagojevic, the editor of "Southern News".

*(Juzne vesti, 23/05/2011)*

A publication entitled "The Media Treatment of Books", resulting from a project by professors, associates and students of the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, was presented at the National Library of Serbia. The research included 134 media outlets, of them 97 print media outlets and 37 electronic media outlets, during July and August 2009. The research has shown that the available space for culture and books is being continually diminished under the pressure of more attractive publications. It was noted that editorial offices are less aware of the necessity of culture and books, and that the commercial and entertainment role of the media is gaining more prominence at the expense of their educational role.

*(Danas, 20/05/2011, B92, Blic, 21/05/2011)*

The research entitled "The Media Treatment of Books" also included the newspaper "Politika" which devotes significant amount of attention to books and renowned authors, while its journalists have actively reported on closure of publishing companies and conversion of bookstores into shops, and presented new publications and new authors.

*(Politika, 21/05/2011)*

TV B92, which aired the tennis match between Djokovic and Nadal, was the most watched TV station in Serbia among the population segment aged 18-49. The match was watched by 2,500,000 citizens, which is a third of all TV viewers at the time.

*(B92, 16/05/2011)*

The portal "Serbian Newspaper Montenegro" ("Srpske Novine CG") is an electronic media outlet that was founded by the Serbian National Council. Today it is one of the most visited electronic media outlets in Montenegro, says the



announcement by the Journalists' Association of Serbia on the occasion of the second anniversary of this outlet.  
(UNS, 13/05/2011)

"Religious Tolerance – A Step Towards the EU", a project implemented by the Media Center Belgrade with support from the EU Media Fund program aimed at professional development of the media in Serbia. An integral part of the project is the documentary series "The Different Others" ("Drugi Drugaciji"), consisting of four half-hour films and dealing with the topics related to life in the environment with multiple religions in Serbia. The first promotion of the films will be held in the premises of the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina on 23 May 2011 at 11.00 AM, while the second promotion will be held in the Media Center Subotica on 24 May 2011 at 11.00 AM.

(Media Center, 21/05/2011)

### **Awards, courses and contests**

The Belgrade Center for Human Rights has presented diplomas to attendees of the school for journalists within the project "Promoting Responsible and Professional Reporting on the Fight Against Organized Crime, War Crimes, Discrimination and Domestic Violence".

(Danas, 13/05/2011)

On May 23, Jelena Drakulic-Petrovic, the general director of the company "Ringier Axel Springer", received the award "Businesswoman of the Year" presented by the Chamber of Commerce of Belgrade for results achieved in 2010.

(Blic, 19/05/2011)

Journalists below the age of 35 dealing with economic issues can apply to participate in the workshop "Journalistic Chase – Expenditure of Public Funds" by Friday, May 20. The workshop is organized by the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS).

(UNS, 17/05/2011)

A photo reporter for "Vecernje Novosti", Predrag Pedja Mitic, presented in the gallery of the Municipality of Vracar photographs related to political events in the last 20 years. The exhibition entitled "Take a Shot, If You Dare", includes, among other subjects, portraits of the murdered Slavko Curuvija, Ivan Stambolic and Zoran Djindjic.

(Vecernje novosti, 17/05/2011)

The winners of the BETA Photo Award Competition are: Louisa Gouliamaki, AFP, Greece, for the photograph Athens 1; Janko Petkovic, Beta, Serbia, for the photograph Proboj ("Breakthrough") and Damir Sencer, HINA, Croatia, for the photograph Stop progonu hrvatskih branitelja ("Stop persecuting the defenders of Croatia"). BETA is organised this photo competition since 2004 and SEEMO has participated for the past four years with its special award. In 2011, 11 photographers from nine countries submitted 486 entries for the competition.

(SEEMO, 18 May 2011)

"The Golden Quill" ("Zlatno Pero"), the most prestigious award by the Journalists' Association of Vojvodina was presented to six journalists who have made the most significant contribution to advancement of journalism in this year: Matilda Varga, Samuel Ceman, Milorad Stevancev, Jovan Vajdl, Ljubomir Markov and Bogdan Ibrajter.

(Dnevnik, 05/23/2011)

### **Anniversaries**

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the airing of the first programme "Susretanja" ("Meetings") on Radio Belgrade 1. The programme, deals with current events in the world of classical music and is broadcast every day in



various time slots.

*(Blic, 15/05/2011)*

The public service broadcaster of Serbia marks 20 years of broadcasting of the satellite programme prepared by the editorial office of the Diaspora Programme with participation of all departments of the RTS. The primary function of the project was to enable the diaspora to receive programme from Serbia.

*(Politika, 14/05/2011)*

The regional TV Bor celebrated its 18th anniversary on May 10.

*(UNS, 16/05/2011)*

Celebration of the eighth anniversary of the Kurir daily newspaper was held under the slogan "Long Live the Revolution" and brought together the political, business and artistic elite of Serbia.

*(Kurir, 16/05/2011)*

The editorial office of the newspaper "Republika" celebrated the publication of the 500th issue. Nebojsa Popov, its founder and long-time editor, said that in its new issues "Republika" managed to preserve "its opinions, approach and recognizability achieved in the last 20 years". "I believe that Republika will succeed in continuing its work despite all the difficulties", said Popov to Danas.

*(Danas, 21/05/2011)*

### **Apology of the Managing Board of RTS**

In today's announcement, new members of the Managing Board of Radio-Television Serbia offered their apology to citizens of Serbia and neighboring countries who during the nineties were subjected in the media house's programme to "insults, libels and what today would be legally defined as the hate speech". The announcement says that the Managing Board will be dedicated to preservation of the cultural and national identity of the Serbian people and all national minorities and ethnic groups in Serbia, and that it will strive to improve and advance the educational, cultural and science programme of the RTS.

*(Beta, Blic, B92, Danas, Večernje Novosti, Kurir, 23/05/2011, Politika, 24 sata, Alo!, Pravda, 24/05/2011)*

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) welcome the decision of the new Managing Board of the Radio-Television Serbia to offer an apology, but consider that the Board should have made a greater emphasis on the warmongering role of the Radio-Television Belgrade and Radio-Television Serbia.

*(MC, 24/05/2011)*

### **In memoriam**

A long-time journalist of Tanjug, Ljubisa Ilic, passed away in Nis. He began his journalistic career in 1961, working for the newspaper "Nasa Rec" from Leskovac. Later he worked as a journalist of the youth newspaper "Zbivanje" in Nis and the editor-in-chief of "Narodne Novine" during two terms. For the better part of his career he was the chief of the correspondent office of the Tanjug news agency in Nis.

*(Juzne vesti, UNS, 23/05/2011)*

### **Other news**

An automotive map issued as a gift supplement of a German car magazine that is published under license in Serbia does not include the southern Serbian province. The president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Liljana Smajlovic, says that Auto Bild has to apologize to readers. Her colleague from the Independent Journalists'

Association of Serbia (NUNS), Vukasin Obradovic, is of the opinion that the incident was mostly caused by an editorial error.

*(Kurir, 12/05/2011)*

A former vice president of the Government and a former ambassador in Israel, Mile Isakov, who is one of the founders of the political party Reformists of Vojvodina, has been employed again by the public service broadcaster of Vojvodina at the position of an editor of the Special Programme although he had already received severance payment. He has announced that he would pay back the severance pay in installments from his salary.

*(Alo!, 19/05/2011)*

At the moment, TV Pirot is not broadcasting its programme due to transmitter malfunction caused by bad weather around the city of Pirot.

*(Južne vesti, 19/05/2011)*

The news agency Beta has delivered a strong protest to the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS). Its jury recently selected a recipient of an investigative journalism award whose work contained accusations against Beta. The accusations were made in an article authored by Zoran Janjic and published on the E-Novine portal, claiming that in the run-up to the murder of the Prime Minister of Serbia, Zoran Djindjic, the Beta agency cooperated with and "published announcements" of the so-called Zemun Clan. The jury of NUNS said that there had been no reason to doubt the integrity of any of the participants in the contest.

*(Beta, NUNS, 16/05/2011, Beta, Danas, 17/05/2011)*

### Newspaper prices and business results

During the previous year, the marketing department of the Radio-Television Vojvodina (RTV) achieved twice the revenue made in the previous year, and four times as much as in 2006, it was announced at a promotion event organized by the department. The continuity of good results of the marketing of RTV will depend on further improvements in the quality of the programme, increased ratings, increased signal coverage, promotion of marketing and programme activities and maintaining of good business relations.

*(Dnevnik, 21/05/2011)*

Out of major print media outlets, *Politika*, *Dnevnik*, *NIN* and *Press* have suffered losses in the previous year. Judging by the financial reports submitted by the print media to the Center for Credit Worthiness of the Commercial Registers Agency, *Kurir* and *Vecernje Novosti* have dramatically improved their financial position, while *NIN* is the only one whose financial standing has radically worsened. *Kurir* has achieved a tenfold increase in the number of its employees, *Press* has lost a half of its employees, while *Politika* has significantly reduced its workforce.

*(Danas, NUNS, UNS, 12/05/2011)*

According to published financial reports available in the Commercial Registers Agency, there were no sensational changes in business operations of commercial TV stations with a national frequency during the last year: apart from Pink International Company, all other TV companies have suffered losses. Pink has more than halved its profit in comparison with the previous year.

*(Danas, UNS, 13/05/2011)*

The Kingdom of Norway will support the activities of the Press Council – the first self-regulatory body in the media field – via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia with an amount of 176,000 euros. Experts from the Norwegian Press Council and the Association of Editors, as well as the representatives of the Ministry, have offered significant assistance during the formation of the Council, defining of its goals, and solving of organizational issues to its founders: the Media Association, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) and Local Press.

*(Vecernje Novosti, Politika, Dnevnik, Blic, Press, UNS, 13/05/2011)*

### Privatization and public media outlets

The announcement that stocks of the local newspaper "Pancevac" would be offered to the public on May 25 has caused a fear of another failed privatization and an extraordinary session of the City Assembly was scheduled for the weekend. "Pancevac" is considered to be the most successful local newspaper in Serbia. A year and a half ago, its privatization was annulled, which means that the Privatization Agency again owns the stocks of the newspaper. The President of the City Assembly of Pancevo, Tigran Kis, says that it is being seriously considered that the newspaper, whose circulation amounts to 14,000 copies, could be managed by the city. If such a solution is not possible, he will suggest the members of the City Assembly to demand that the Privatization Agency annul the decision on the sale of the majority share, at least until a reliable buyer is found.

*(Politika, Blic - Vojvodina, 21/05/2011)*

After two and a half years, the city television of Smederevo will offer the local City Assembly a plan of operations, announced the director of the TV station, Nebojsa Ristic. The Assembly has discussed the activities of the media outlet most recently in October 2008.

*(Vecernje Novosti, UNS, 11/05/2011)*

The Securities Committee should complete by mid-July the procedure of establishing connections between the companies which have bought the "Novosti" company. A package amounting to 62 percents of the shares of "Novosti" was purchased in 2006 by three companies – "Trimax", "Ardos" and "Karamat". Two of them are registered in Austria, while the third one is registered on Cyprus.

*(Beta, Politika, 20/05/2011)*

The city administration of Valjevo has allocated, after a public contest, the money from the budget intended for local electronic media outlets. Out of 4 million dinars, a regional TV Vujic received 1.6 million, regional Radio Patak received 800,000 dinars, while Radio 014 received 600,000 dinars. A Roma Radio Tocak received 200,000 dinars, while 100,000 dinars went to Radio Kula and Radio Istocnik each. 600,000 dinars that were originally intended for the local TV Valjevo remained unallocated, since the privatization of the media outlet had been annulled in the meantime.

*(Blic, NUNS, UNS, 16/05/2011)*

All of the six local electronic and print media in Bajina Basta refused to report from the last session of the Municipal Assembly protesting the fact that they have not received any funds from the municipal budget. The TV Prima, which used to broadcast the sessions of the Municipal Assembly without any financial support for five years, cannot make any more loans in order to provide free airing of the Assembly's sessions, says the announcement issued by the media company.

*(Blic - Srbija, Večernje Novosti, 21/05/2011, Pravda, 24/05/2011)*

### **Broadcasting of parliamentary sessions**

At the moment, the National Parliament and the public service broadcaster are negotiating a contract on TV broadcasting. The Parliament had sent its proposal to the RTS, who criticized it. Now a solution acceptable to both sides is being negotiated.

*(Vecernje Novosti, 17/05/2011)*

The secretary-general of the National Parliament, Veljko Odalovic, said that in a day or two he expects to receive an answer from the public service broadcaster on the conclusion of a contract on broadcasting of parliamentary sessions during the next year. The Parliament's debt in the amount of 3.3 million euros for TV broadcasts during 2006-2011 will not affect the agreement on live broadcasts in this year.

*(Politika, Blic, Večernje Novosti, Danas, Dnevnik, Kurir, 20/05/2011)*

### **Other news**

Although the participants of "The Farm 3" reality show were fighting during the broadcasting of the show, they in fact managed to agree on filing a legal suit against the owner of TV Pink, Zeljko Mitrovic, because of unpaid contractual fees.

*(Alo! 20/05/2011)*

After preparations have been completed and all licenses issued, Radio Bor began broadcasting its 24-hour programme on May 23, exactly a year after its closure. The license of Radio Bor had been revoked by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) because of its failure to remove transmitters on the location that was covered by the license.

*(Danas, 24/05/2011)*

### The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) are surprised that the police in Becej, in cooperation with the competent prosecutor's office, characterized the physical attack on a journalist working for "Kepes Ifjusag", Caba Segi, as nothing more than a misdemeanor.

*(NUNS, NDNV, 11/05/2011)*

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) strongly protest against the physical and verbal attack by an official of the Serbian Progressive Party, Zoran Savanov, and a group of perpetrators on the director and editor-in-chief of RTV Kovacica, Gojko Vukadin, and a cameraman, Danijel Hajk, in Kovacica.

*(Danas, 20/05/2011)*

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) strongly condemns the physical assault on the journalistic team of the Kurir daily newspaper and demands that the police and judicial authorities punish the attacker in accordance with the Criminal Code. NUNS is seriously concerned because of increasingly frequent attacks on journalists and believes that the attacks are being directly invited by incredibly lenient sentences against the perpetrators.

*(NUNS, 12/05/2011; Politika, Pravda, 13/05/2011)*

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) has called on the police and the judiciary to perform a quick and efficient investigation and punishing of attackers on Nedzat Beljulji, the owner of the TV Spektri from Bujanovac, who was assaulted because of aired comments that were critical of the head of the local self-government, Farus Isljami, and the president of the Municipality of Bujanovac, Saip Kamberi.

*(NUNS, Fonet, Blic, 15/05/2011)*

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), with support from IREX, organizes a seminar on media law on May 23, 2011 at 12.00 in the hall no. 8 of the Nis University. The seminar will cover the following subjects:

- Registration and licensing of public media outlets, especially on the internet
- Interception and its forms; how and when the state and its bodies can intercept information and disregard the privacy of communication
- Privacy, the right to privacy and situations when it can be limited; reporting on public personalities

*(NUNS, 19/05/2011)*

The same seminar on the media law will be held on May 27, 2011 at 13.00 in the conference hall of the Faculty of Law in Belgrade.

*(NUNS, 23/05/2011)*

### The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemns the attack on journalists of Kurir. We expect that the state finally sentence at least the attacker on the pregnant journalist of the Kurir daily to the maximum prison sentence of eight years. If Serbian judges are not aware of the relevant articles of the Criminal Code, the Journalists' Association

of Serbia (UNS) will gladly inform them, says the announcement issued by the Association.

*(UNS, Kurir, 12/05/2011; Pravda, 13/05/2011)*

The Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) condemned yesterday the assault on the owner of the TV Spektri from Bujanovac, Nedzat Beljulji, and called on the authorities to prosecute the attacker in accordance with the amended provisions of the Criminal Code.

*(UNS, Danas, Dnevnik, Kurir, 16/05/2011)*

### **The Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL)**

In accordance with relevant laws, the director of the Agency has made a [decision](#) setting the amount of the monthly fee for lease of the cable distribution routes to be paid by operators that own the cable routes.

*(RATEL 18/05/2011)*

A Protocol on Cooperation between the Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL) and the Committee for Protection of Competition has been signed.

*(RATEL, 17/05/2011)*

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL) has published tables with an overview of roaming prices of all three domestic mobile operators with the aim to help citizens of Serbia lower the cost of the usage of mobile phones abroad. This overview includes 50 countries and detailed information is available at the web site [www.ratel.rs](http://www.ratel.rs).

*(RATEL, 24/05/2011)*

### **SEEMO**

SEEMO is disappointed with a Serbian court's decision to sentence to only ten months house arrest a person who beat up B92 TV cameraman Bosko Brankovic, breaking his leg, injuring his shoulder and destroying his camera. The light sentence has fuelled a widespread sense among journalists' and other media associations that the law does not protect journalists. A court in Belgrade took three years to prosecute the perpetrators.

*(SEEMO/IPI, 12/05/2011)*

The South East Europe Media Organization (SEEMO) is disappointed with a Serbian court's decision to sentence to only ten months of house arrest Milan Savatovic, who beat up B92 TV cameraman Bosko Brankovic, breaking his leg, injuring his shoulder and destroying his camera. A court in Belgrade took three years to pass the verdict.

*(Fonet, NUNS, 13/05/2011)*

### **The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)**

As a result of the complaint filed by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), the Radio-Television of Serbia was fined yesterday in the amount of two million, while the TV Pink is obliged to pay a fine totaling a million and a half euros. The fines were imposed due to overstepping of the allowed time for broadcasting of commercials.

*(Kurir, 20/05/2011)*

The Court of Misdemeanors in Belgrade, acting on complaints filed by the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), could pass a verdict obliging the Serbian public service broadcaster to pay a fine in the amount of up to two million euros because of overstepping of the allowed time for airing of advertisements. For the same reason, the TV Pink should pay up to 1.5 million euros. Because of the programme saturated with advertising blocks, the RRA has filed no less than 2,457 complaints against the RTS, 1,248 against TV Pink, 1,865 against B92 and 1,379 against TV Prva.

*(Kurir, 21/05/2011)*

The Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) is not authorized to prohibit the so-called reality shows. In accordance with the Law on Public Information, such a decision can be made only by the competent Court at the proposal of the public prosecutor, says the reply to a question of a member of the National Parliament of Serbia. Although this issue is not within its authority, the Agency has prepared a proposal of the Broadcasting Law, while the authorized proposer of such a law is the Ministry of Culture, Informing and Information Society.

*(Dnevnik, 23/05/2011)*

Porfirije Peric, the president of the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) and a vicar bishop, is at the same time the abbot of the Kovilj Monastery and the head of a community for treatment of drug addicts "The Land of the Living" ("Zemlja Zivih"). His work in the RRA violates three church canons, especially the sixth apostolic canon which says that a bishop is now allowed to perform secular jobs.

*(Alo! 21/05/2011)*

### **Media trade unions**

31 employees in "Politika Newspapers and Magazines" will be dismissed from work. The management claims that the decision is the only way to solve the financial difficulties, says the president of the Trade Union of Serbian Journalists, Dragana Cabarkapa.

*(Danas, 20/05/2011)*

Representative trade unions of "Politika Newspapers and Magazines" organized yesterday in front of the Politika buildings a protest against new dismissals of employees in the company. The trade unions demand that the management revoke its decision on dismissal of 31 employees.

*(Danas, 25/05/2011)*

The president of the Trade Union of Serbian Journalists, which has given its support to the protest of the trade union of Politika, Dragana Cabarkapa, said that journalists working in the media in a majority ownership of the state should unite and preserve the jobs and reputation of their media.

*(Tanjug, Politika 25/05/2011)*

Employees in Radio Smederevo have ended their three-week strike after signing an agreement with the majority owner, who has accepted an obligation to pay salaries for the first quarter to employees before the end of May, while the allowance for meals and transport costs for the last year should be paid by the end of June.

*(Tanjug, Blic, Pravda, Beta, Boom 93, 17/05/2011, Vecernje Novosti, 18/05/2011)*

The trade union "Nezavisnost" ("Independence") of the public company Radio-Television Kragujevac announced an one-hour warning strike to be held on May 26 due to low salaries, debt towards the employees, violation of the Collective Contract and abuse of members of the trade union. The employer and a founder of RTV Kragujevac is the city of Kragujevac.

*(Blic, 25/05/2011)*



Since yesterday, TV Pi from Pirot is available to a large number of people from Serbia living in Europe and other parts of the world via the Austrian GSS IPTV network.

*(Press, UNS, 13/05/2011)*

The Sandzak Today ("Sandzak Danas") supplement is now available in Istanbul thanks to help from Mustafa Koca, a businessman, the Serbia International Trade Association (SITA) that connects business people from Serbia and Turkey, and a private transport company Istanbul Express. The Turkish supplement "Sandzak" of the Danas newspaper is also sold in Sarajevo. (Danas, 20/05/2011)

The company "Ringier Axel Springer d.o.o." has presented a new, redesigned web site of the newspaper "24 Sata" ("24 Hours"), [www.24sata.rs](http://www.24sata.rs), that is mostly aimed at young and urban population that leads active social life, as well as other Belgrade citizens. Apart from latest news from the city, country and the world, the web site offers all kinds of service information about Belgrade.

*(ASMEDI, no. 152)*

On the fifth anniversary of the morning programme of B92, the TV station begins broadcasting a new morning programme entitled "A New Morning". "Every day between 6.00 AM and 9.00 AM, the programme will offer topics from the fields of culture, entertainment, sports and music, as well as information needed for a successful start of the day", says B92.

*(B92, 15/05/2011)*

The ABC Serbia company will move to new business premises as of Monday, May 23. The new address is 67 Makenzijeve Street, 11000 Belgrade. Contact telephones are 011 / 24 50 508 and 24 50 204; fax number is 011 / 24 50 122. Email addresses remain unchanged.

*(ABC Newsletter, 18/05/2011)*

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