



MEDIA NEWS BULLETIN

biweekly

Issue No. 5

May 25 – June 08, 2011

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Assessments of the current media situation in Serbia

The agony of numerous media outlets demonstrates that lack of any concept or responsible public policy in the media sector. The continued influence of the state and its control via media ownership is being presented as the only sustainable model of survival, especially for local and regional radio and TV stations, but also, increasingly often, for the press as well. On the other hand, no one has suggested any sustainable models of withdrawal of the state from media ownership, nor has anyone emphasized the fact that, in an environment characterized by underdeveloped advertising market, non-transparent budget funding (usually directed towards media outlets that are close to the government) additionally undermines free-market competition and leads to destruction of the healthy segment of the media scene.

(ANEM, Legal Monitoring of the Media Scene in Serbia /Pravni monitoring medijske scene u Srbiji/ - May 2011)

Conflict between president Tadic and the ALO! magazine

Reacting to the interview of president Tadic given to the German daily newspaper „Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung“, the editor of the ALO! magazine published a very harsh critique of Tadic's opinion about the magazine's reporting. „In an interview given to a German newspaper, Mr Tadic has openly demonstrated his ambition to act as an editor-in-chief of all media outlets in the country, forcing them to report in accordance with his diktat and his cabinet's wishes. In the interview, Mr Tadic has accused the ALO! magazine of encouraging the anti-European sentiment in the country. He has also accused the magazine's German and Austrian owners of being interested in their profit instead of 'European transformation of Serbia' and 'political and social consequences of their activities'“.

(Alo!, 06/06/2011)

The president of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), Ljiljana Smajlovic, is surprised by president Tadic's decision to criticize Serbian media outlets while communicating with German instead of Serbian audience. "I cannot agree with his opinion that the ALO! magazine is the champion of 'anti-European sentiment' in Serbia. Differing opinions and critiques should not be declared anti-European. Especially by the president, who has signed a deeply anti-European media law two years ago. Self-censorship in the Serbian media still exists, although the Constitutional Court has annulled the draconian law last year." The president of the UNS emphasizes that the role of the press is not to defend the official policy, even if such a policy is favored by the European Union.

(Alo!, 06/06/2011)

"The editorial office of the ALO! magazine rejects the accusations voiced by president Tadic. If responsible critique of the government and exposure of lies, crime, corruption, tycoonization, poverty, hunger and broken promises can be described as 'extremism' and 'anti-Europeanism', then our magazine will remain an 'extremist' media outlet", says the statement issued by the magazine editorial office.

(Alo!, 06/06/2011)

The Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) estimated yesterday that the policy of the president of Serbia, Boris Tadic, is non-democratic towards the media and that the degree of the government's influence on the media is unprecedented.

(Pregled, 07/06/2011)

"According to well-informed sources, the brutal attack of the president, Boris Tadic, against our magazine is a part of the plan created within his cabinet – due to the disastrous rating of the Democratic Party among the voters – aimed at transforming all the remaining free media outlets into obedient mouthpieces of the government that would publish only information intended to hide the actual situation in the country", considers the editor of the ALO! magazine. The president of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Vukasin Obradovic, told the ALO! magazine that it is unusual for state leaders to criticize the editorial policy of individual private media outlets. "Such behavior can be interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure", says Obradovic.

(Alo!, 07/06/2011)

The minister of culture and information, Predrag Markovic, said that he did not have time to read the latest newspaper and therefore was not able to directly comment on the Tadic's statement. He added that the relationship between politicians and the media would be defined after the adoption of the Media Strategy that is currently being prepared by his Ministry. "No one is authorized to influence the editorial policy of the media", said Markovic.

(Alo!, 07/06/2011)

President Tadic's sharp criticism aimed at a foreign investor – the owner of the ALO! magazine – sends a clear message to European investors that they are not welcome here if he cannot control them – this is the opinion of economic analysts interviewed by the magazine. The director of the Free Market Center, Miroslav Prokopijevic, believes that Tadic's attitude will not be welcomed by EU citizens since they are well-aware that the media should please their readers, not the government. A consultant for foreign investment, Mahmut Busatlija, says that president Tadic has demonstrated "a profound ignorance of democracy and free market". The director of the Center for Economic Research within the Institute of Social Sciences, Danilo Sukovic, considers that Tadic should not attempt to influence the media, but to dedicate his efforts to creation of strong institutions that would guarantee security of investments and freedom of opinions.

(Alo!, 07/06/2011)

Srdjan Milivojevic is the only member of the Democratic Party whom the ALO! magazine managed to interview with regard to Boris Tadic's statement. He said that he had never judged the media and that he did not intend to offer an estimate on whether ALO! was an anti-European media outlet. "Let the readers be the judge. Media laws regulate what is and what is not allowed. The Democratic Party has utmost respect for the principle of freedom of speech", said Milivojevic.

(Alo!, 08/06/2011)

The Media Strategy

The draft Media Strategy will be completed by June 1, while the final version of the document could be reviewed by the Government already by mid-July, said today Dragana Milicevic Milutinovic, the state secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Informing and Information Society, to Danas daily newspaper. Public debate will take place until June, followed by introduction of possible changes, after which the draft strategy will be delivered to and adopted by the Government. Draft Broadcasting Law had already been completed, but it would have to wait until the completion of the Media Strategy, announced the state secretary.

(Danas, 26/05/2011)

On June 1 – within the agreed schedule – the working group for preparation of the Draft Media Strategy submitted the draft document to the Ministry of Culture, Informing and Information Society.

(Danas, Dnevnik, Politika, Vecernje Novosti, 02/06/2011)

Several of the most significant issues tackled by the media strategy were pointed out by the director and the editor-in-chief of the Fonet news agency, Zoran Sekulic, who is also a member of the working group: the draft media strategy puts emphasis on fundamental issues like the public interest; definition of the role of the state in the media sector; the role of the media in the society; the ownership over public media outlets; public service broadcasters; media literacy and media pluralism. A special chapter is dedicated in more detail to withdrawal of the state from media ownership, taking into account the unanimous opinion of the working group that the state – apart from its role in the field of public service broadcasters – cannot be allowed to own or found media outlets, nor should it be allowed in the future to perform direct budget financing of the media: the state should finance the media only on the basis of specific projects that are in public interest, after public competitions open to all media outlets under equal conditions. The expert working group consisting of seven members has adopted the draft document unanimously, including two representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Informing, without any differing opinions or alternatives.

(Politika, 03/06/2011)

The integral text of the draft strategy of development of the public information system in the Republic of Serbia until 2016 is available at the web site <http://www.kultura.gov.rs/>. The Strategy envisions privatization and continuation of operations of the existing media outlets in minority languages. Regarding the status of former federal public institutions, the interest of the public will be discussed, together with the possibility of closure of Radio Yugoslavia or its merger with the public service broadcaster. Similarly, closure of the "Yugoslavian Gazette" or, alternatively, its merger with the "Official Gazette" will also be considered.

(Dnevnik, 04/06/2011)

The Assembly of the City of Kragujevac criticized yesterday the Draft Strategy for Development of the System of Public Informing in Serbia because the document does not mention regional public service broadcasters.

"Privatization of the media and rejection of the concept of local and regional public service broadcasters indicates the lack of interest in reforms and advancement of the society and the media scene", says the announcement.

(Beta, Danas, 07/06/2011)

Draft Media Strategy is supposed to speed up the media privatization.

(Vecernje novosti, 08/06/2011)

Media-related legal proceedings

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) are puzzled by the fact that the police in the city of Becej, in cooperation with the competent prosecutor's office, has decided to characterize the assault on the journalist of Kepes Ifjusag, Caba Segi, as a misdemeanor. The NUNS and NDNV intend to request information from the authorities about the reasons for the decision.

(FoNet, Dnevnik, 07/06/2011)

The Higher Court in Belgrade has punished the Press daily newspaper for readers' comments on its web site that were recognized by gay associations as hate speech, although the controversial comments had been removed as soon as the administrator of the web site noticed them. This is the first verdict in the history of Serbian journalism that punishes a media outlet in Serbia because of their readers' opinion. The verdict against Press surprised the president

of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS), Vukasin Obradovic, since there is no accepted judicial practice in Serbia with regard to blogs and readers' comments. Neven Cveticanin, a sociologist, believes that censoring of opinions of readers should not be considered acceptable because such opinions reflect our reality, whether we like them or not.

(Press, 08/06/2011)

The Gay Straight Alliance announced that the Higher Court in Belgrade had accepted their lawsuit against the Press daily newspaper over publication of comments on the article "I Will Be a Gay Icon". The comments contained hate speech. The Press is obliged to pay legal expenses, but the court has rejected the request for payment of damages.

(Pravda, 08/06/2011)

The Court of Misdemeanors in Krusevac sentenced Mile Dzopalic from Aleksandrovac to a fine in the amount of 5,000 dinars because of a physical attack on journalist Gvozden Zdravic, a correspondent for Blic daily newspaper. The attack occurred on September 26 last year during the commercial-tourist event "Zupska Berba" in Aleksandrovac and was strongly condemned by the Journalists' Association of Serbia, the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia and the Southeast Europe Media Organization (SEEMO).

(Blic, 08/06/2011)

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The language of tabloids is being accepted as a model for Serbian media, while the linguistic norms are not precisely established and have not followed the changes in today's discourse – this is the conclusion of the participants in the round table "Write As You Think".

(Danas, 02/06/2011)

The media audience

According to the supplement published by TV Review – a supplement of the Politika daily newspaper – issue of 4-10 June 2011, seven national TV channels aired 101 films in total during this period, which includes commercials. This means that on an average day 14.4 films are aired on all channels, i.e. 2.1 films per channel on average. This information demonstrates that the magic of television has been destroyed by films and advertising, say the authors of the TV Review.

(Politika, 06/06/2011)

In a poll conducted by the web site of the Danas daily newspaper on Wednesday, more than 99 percent of participants (more than 22.000 visitors in total) were of the opinion that individual agricultural producers should not be given subsidies for land exceeding 30 hectares, while only around one percent of them replied positively. The newspaper's interviewees are of the opinion that the web site was most probably compromised by hackers without any political or economic interests, although it is evident that there are groups on the internet which operate in the interest of political parties, influential lobbies and powerful companies, with the aim to 'distort' the voice of the public. The president of the Center for Development of the Internet, Slobodan Markovic, said to Danas that it is obvious that political parties have their own 'branches' on the internet "whose activities will become increasingly more noticeable as the elections approach".

(Danas, 04/06/2011)

Awards, courses and contests

The Secretariate for Sports and Youth of the Autonomous Province and the Sports Agency of the Province have jointly organized the project "Sports Day with Journalists" in Letenka. Representatives of the management and the Public Company "National Park Fruska Gora", as well as sport journalists, participated in the sport contests.

(Danas, 01/06/2011)

Belgrade magazine Status, the only local non-licensed magazine that has been published continually for more than nine years, has published its 100th issue on 236 pages filled with attractive and exclusive stories. Among other things, the magazine published the interview of the president of Serbia, Boris Tadic, given to the writer Svetislav Basara.

(Danas, 01/06/2011)

Daily newspaper Politika published an exclusive photograph of Ratko Mladic that has attracted the interest of international and local media outlets, agencies and newspapers. Everybody was allowed to publish the photograph for free if they credited Politika.

(Politika, 28/05/2011)

European Association of Newspaper Agencies (EANA) announced that the director of Tanjug, Branka Djukic, won this year's award for exceptional quality of news agency journalism. The announcement emphasized that the award was given for significant transformation and modernization of the agency, and that the Board of Directors of EANA decided unanimously on the recipient of the award. "They had taken into account the fact that the agency's profile changed from a sycophant media outlet to the most-cited news agency in the print media", said Branka Djukic to Politika.

(Blic, Dnevnik, Politika, 31/05/2011)

Anniversaries

Tenth issue of the "TFT" magazine on theatre, film and television was presented in the bookstore "Glasnik". The magazine has recently won an award at the Book Fair in Sarajevo, where it was pronounced the best magazine of its kind in the region.

(Danas, 26/05/2011)

Journalist Zoran Panovic presented yesterday his new book "The Age of Soda" containing 70+1 of his selected interviews made during his journalistic career.

(Blic, 02/06/2011)

The Bosnian National Council (BNV) and the Center for Bosniak Studies from Tutin organized in the City Museum in Prijepolje on Friday a promotion of the first 20 issues of the magazine of social life and culture of Bosniaks from Sandzak, "Bosnjacka Rijec". The current editor of the magazine, Redzep Skrijelj, believes that the first 20 issues have managed to preserve valuable cultural and material legacy of Bosniaks for future generations, despite difficult circumstances and the lack of funds.

(Danas - Sandžak, 03/06/2011)

Apology of the Managing Board of RTS

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 for its programme broadcast during the nineties of the last century, but consider that the Board should have made a greater emphasis on the warmongering role of the national TV. The Managing Board of the Radio-Television of Serbia (RTS) offered an apology to "citizens of Serbia and neighboring states that were exposed to insults, libel and the content that today would be defined as hate speech that were aired during the nineties".

(Blic, Kurir, Vecernje Novosti, 25/05/2011)

As long as some of the people who had abused the news programme in order to insult their opponents are still working as editors in the RTS, apologies do not matter and cannot be considered sincere – this is the opinion of a columnist for the Pravda daily newspaper.

(Pravda, 25/05/2011)

The existence of a basis for an apology is evidenced by the fact that the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) submitted in 2009 criminal charges to the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office against unidentified perpetrators, responsible persons and journalists in several media outlets because of their "clear role in dissemination of propaganda". The charges were filed against the responsible persons in the Radio-Television Belgrade, Radio-Television Novi Sad, and daily newspapers Politika and Vecernje Novosti. Those that should have apologized have not done it; at the same time, the apology may be 20 years too late, writes a columnist in the daily newspaper

Danas.

(Danas, 25/05/2011)

The Meshihat of the Islamic Community in Serbia, led by the mufti Muamer Zukorlic, is of the opinion that the apology issued by the Managing Board of the Radio-Television Serbia is a positive development, but not enough and that its current editorial policy is not completely independent from the policy of the ruling regime.

(Beta, Danas, 25/05/2011)

What is – mostly incorrectly – described as an apology of the Managing Board of the Radio-Television of Serbia has actually attracted less attention than it deserves, writes Radoslav Petkovic, a columnist in the Blic daily newspaper.

(Blic, 29/05/2011)

Media transfers

A TV host and a winner of the "European Face" contest at the RTS, Djordje Maricic, has left the media company and joined TV B92 as one of the presenters of the "New Morning Programme".

(Večernje Novosti, 30/05/2011)

Documentary series "The others, different?"

Media Center Belgrade is realizing the project "Religious tolerance – huge milestone to EU" with support from the EU Media Fund program. A crucial part of the project is the documentary series "The others, different?", consisting of four half-hour documentary films. The second two films will be screened in 10 Serbian cities between June 10 and June 17. A panel discussion on the occasion of the completion of the project "Religious tolerance – huge milestone to EU" will be held in Belgrade on June 18 in the Continental Hotel, 10 Vladimira Popovica Street, in the Le Club hall at 12.00.

(Media Center, 07/06/2011)

In memoriam

After a long and serious illness, Visnja Bozovic-Vukotic, a journalist and a long-time member of the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS), passed away early in the morning in Belgrade.

(UNS, 01/06/ 2011)

A long-time journalist and editor of the Croatian Radio, Dusko Mandic, passed away at age 76 in Belgrade. He worked as a correspondent for Radio Zagreb from Belgrade since 1975 and won numerous awards from Croatian Television (HTV) and the Croatian Journalistic Association. Dusko Mandic was also a member of the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS). The funeral was held in Belgrade on June 6 in attendance of his family.

(NUNS, 08/06/2011)

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Media business results

The public service broadcasting role is realized by public broadcasting companies at the republic and provincial level, while their funding is provided via collection of a TV fee, envisions the Draft Strategy for Development of the System of Public Informing Until 2016.

(Kurir, 05/06/2011)

Around 100 employees and former employees of Politika protested in front of the company building in support of their 30 colleagues whom the management intends to dismiss from work. During the last four years, the number of employed journalists and media workers has been reduced by 800. The participants of the protest called on the government to appoint managers who would contribute to economic revival and preservation of the company reputation.

(Beta, Pravda, Danas, 25/05/2011)

The representative of the state capital in the Managing Board and the Assembly of Stockholders of the Politika Newspapers and Magazines company, Jovan Simic, said to the Tanjug news agency that the company used to have a slightly larger circulation with 600 employees than it has now, but also a loss amounting to 7.5 million euros. The company now has 350 employees and a slightly lower circulation, but has achieved profit in the amount of six million euros.

(Tanjug, Politika, 25/05/2011)

Privatization and public media outlets

The Commission for Protection of Competition will decide by mid-July whether to approve the takeover of 62.4 percent of the Novosti company by Austrian Ost Holding, which is owned by German media group VAZ, said the Commission to Beta news agency yesterday. In January 2009, Ost Holding submitted a request to the Commission for approval of the acquisition of a majority share in Novosti. The request was amended by Ost Holding in January 2010. In May 2011, the Committee rejected the Austrian company's complaint against its decision to use the regular procedure – which can last up to three months – to establish the market share that VAZ would have in the Serbian market if its takeover of a part of the Novosti company was approved. Last year, the company announced that it had begun taking over ownership shares in Novosti after a purchase of 100 percent of stocks held by an Austrian company, Ardos. Ardos is one of the three companies via which a Belgrade businessman, Milan Beko, has become the majority owner of Novosti. At the moment, apart from an indirect ownership over 29 percent of stocks (via the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund), the state owns 7.2 percent of stocks but is not interested in speeding up the process of defining ownership relations in the company. Milan Beko purchased from small stockholders the package with 62.4 stocks of Novosti at the stock exchange in 2006. The Securities Committee began examining connections between these companies in November last year, after Beko had publicly admitted that he was the majority owner of Novosti.

(Beta, Danas, Pregled, 26/05/2011)

German media group VAZ announced the completion of the sale of Stampa System newsstand chain to a food producer from Belgrade, Centroproizvod. The sale price remains confidential, in accordance with the sales agreement between the contracting parties. A member of the management of VAZ and the company's representative in Serbia, Peter Lange, said that the successful sale of Stampa System brought the media group one step closer to achieving its goal of withdrawal from the Serbian market.

(Beta, Blic, Politika, Danas, Vecernje Novosti, 26/05/2011)

During the summer, the Securities Commission intends to complete the procedure of establishing possible connections between participants in the ownership structure of the NIP Vecernje Novosti company, said the sources from the Commission to Danas daily. Expert services and the president of the Securities Commission refused to allow Danas to examine the documentation related to the ownership structure of the company. Aside from the state, which is the largest individual owner in the company, other owners include three foreign companies whose structure extends to off-shore zones, making it very difficult for the Commission to verify Milan Beko's claims that he is the majority owner.

(Danas, 31/05/2011)

The Anti-Corruption Council of the Government of Serbia will file criminal charges against a number of people who had participated in the illegal privatization of the Belgrade media company Novosti, announced the Council yesterday. For more than a year, the Council has been gathering and analyzing the documentation related to privatization of Novosti, which clearly shows that the company was publicly owned in 2006, when it was illegally privatized in accordance with an agreement between the director of the company, Manojlo Vukotic, and businessman Milan Beko – said the president of the Council, Verica Barac. She pointed out that Predrag Bubalo, who was the minister of economy at the time when Milan Beko bought around 62 percent of stocks in Novosti via related companies, had also participated in illegal activities related to the case.

(B92 and Boom 93, 1/06/2011, Alo!, Pregled, 02/06/2011)

We were shocked by the sheer scope of illegal activities in the process of privatization of Novosti, the examples of blatant violation of regulations by state institutions and their role in cover-up of the committed acts. We have come to a conclusion that the whole case amounts to organized crime based on a collusion between the executive branch of government and centers of financial power or tycoons, said the president of the Anti-Corruption Council, Verica Barac, at a press conference. She added that the case had been investigated by the Council for more than two years, and that the biggest obstacle was related to gathering of valid documentation.

(Danas, 02/06/2011)

In accordance with court verdicts, a part of equipment was again confiscated from a local TV station in Valjevo (TVA) because of unpaid salaries, confirmed sources from the station to Beta news agency. The temporary representative of the capital, Branko Trifunovic, tried to reach an agreement with former employees and convince them to only make an inventory of equipment and wait for better circumstances for payment of late salaries, but they refused. Bankruptcy proceedings will be initiated if the TVA station is not taken over by the City Assembly again, which should be decided by members of the Assembly and approved by the Ministry of Economy of Serbia.

(Beta, Danas, Press, Politika, Pravda, 28/05/2011)

A Russian businessman, Vladimir Yevgenievich Yemeljanov, now owns 50 percent of the company Radio-Television Kraljevo and Ibarske Novosti d.o.o., confirmed Davor Cicic to the Tanjug news agency. Cicic's company, Kemo, had previously been the sole owner of the media house. The sales contract was signed in the premises of the regional TV

Kraljevo in the town of Konarevo near Kraljevo, but financial details are not known. TV Kraljevo has a regional frequency, while Radio KV has a local frequency. Weekly magazine Ibarske Novosti is distributed in the city. In June of the last year, the company that was in the middle of bankruptcy proceedings was bought for 12 million dinars by the Kemo company owned by Davor Cicic. Around 40 people now work in the company RTV Kraljevo and Ibarske Novosti.

(Tanjug, Pregled, 31/05/2011)

Zeljko Mitrovic intends to sell TV Avala to the CMI company for the price of 10.5 million euros, reports daily newspaper Press. Negotiations with CMI began on last Friday. CMI owns more than 20 TV stations, among them TV Nova in Croatia and POP TV in Slovenia. The largest obstacle to the sale of Avala is the station's debt, which amounts to more than 30 million euros. Serbian laws forbid foreign ownership of more than 50 percent of TV stations with national frequencies. However, flexible interpretation of the laws has already allowed the sale of majority shares in B92 and Fox to the Greek company Antena.

(Press, 03/06/2011, Kurir, 08/06/2011)

For the first time, the city administration has allocated four million dinars for co-financing of private electronic media outlets in Valjevo. The largest share of the funds was given to the regional TV Vujic – 1.5 million dinars. Regional Radio Patak received 800,000 dinars, while local TV Valjevo and Radio 014 received 600,000 dinars each. A Roma Radio Tocak, Radio Kula and Radio Istocnik – radio station of the Valjevo Eparchy of the Serbian Orthodox Church – received 200,000 dinars each.

(Press, 04/06/2011)

Certain media outlets, that are now owned by the state, might get new owners by 2013 – the citizens of Serbia. The draft media strategy, that will be publicly discussed in a few days, envisions an 18-month period during which the state would be required to sell its radio and TV stations, newspapers and news agencies. If this task ends unsuccessfully, the state would be obliged to issue stocks to citizens for free.

(Vecernje Novosti, 08/06/2011)

Minority media outlets

RTV Spektri from Bujanovac said in a statement that leaders of eight Albanian political parties from the south of Serbia were attempting to present themselves as victims in the pre-election year with the aim to hide their own incompetence and nepotism. "The future for Albanians in this region lies only in the economic success", emphasizes the announcement.

(RTV Spektri, Media Center, 06/06/2011)

Broadcasting of parliamentary sessions

The president of the National Parliament of Serbia, Slavica Djukic Dejanovic, said that the agreement on broadcasting of parliamentary sessions with the Radio-Television Serbia would probably be signed during the next week.

(Blic, 02/06/2011)

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The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) will hold its regular annual Assembly on Saturday, 25 June 2011 at 12.00 in the Media Center (Terazije 3/1, Belgrade).

(NUNS, 07/06/2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) and the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV) call on journalists to sign their initiative, aimed at the public and the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA), with regard to appointment of Dalibor Bubnjevic as a member of the Managing Board of the Public Service Broadcaster of Vojvodina. The initiative urges the RRA to immediately remove Bubnjevic from position because of his participation in promotion of Nazi ideals.

(NUNS and NDNV, 06/06/2011)

The Constitutional Court has banned the Nazi organization "Nacionalni Stroj". However, on May 4, the Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) rejected on technical grounds the complaint, submitted by the Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina (NDNV), against the appointment of the promoter of the book "The Case of Nacionalni Stroj" and the manifesto of this organization, Dalibor Bubnjevic, as a member of the Managing Board of Radio-Television Vojvodina (RTV). The Constitutional Court took into account the Constitution and its values. The Council of the RRA hid behind technicalities, proving that it has more respect for causa formalitatis than the laws, morals and interests of the state and the society. Serbian non-governmental organizations call on the Council of the RRA to remove Dalibor Bubnjevic from his position in the Managing Board of the public service broadcaster of Vojvodina (RTV), says the announcement issued by these organizations.

(NUNS, Blic, 06/06/2011)

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia calls on politicians, especially from the ruling political parties, to refrain from making public judgements about the editorial policy of the media, because media houses perceive such opinions as a direct pressure on their editorial concept, and the freedom of expression and informing. From this point of view, we fully understand the protest of the ALO! magazine against statements made by the president of the Republic of Serbia, Boris Tadic, in his interview with German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

(NUNS, 06/06/2011)

The Journalists' Association of Serbia

A round table on the topic of "The Language in the Media" was held in the main hall of the Journalists' Association of Serbia. Among the participants were Dr Aleksandar Milanovic, a professor at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, Vlado Djukanovic, a linguist, and Dragan Jovicevic, an editor in the weekly magazine NIN.

(UNS, 01/06/2011)

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL)

Public consultations about the following documents have been completed: Draft Rulebook on Implementation of Cost Principles, Separate Bills and Reporting by Operators with Significant Market Share in the Field of Electronic

Communications; Draft Rulebook on the Amount of Fees for Agency's Services; Draft Rulebook on Parameters of Quality of Publicly Available Services and Implementation of Control of Electronic Communications; Draft Rulebook on Control of Usage of Radio Frequencies, Technical Inspections and Protection from Harmful Interference; Draft Rulebook on Usage of Radio Stations in Domestic and Foreign Aircraft, Locomotives, Ships and Other Vessels; and draft solutions with regard to identification of operators with significant market share in relevant markets susceptible to previous regulations.

(RATEL, 08/06/2011)

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL) has issued a publication entitled "The Future Built on Broadband Communications" and authored by members of the Committee for Broadband Access and Digital Development of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The authors of the publication expect that the strategic use of broadband information and communication technologies will allow dynamic development of the international community and realization of the Millennium Goals until 2015 i.e. achievement of efficient and sustainable solutions for major global challenges in the 21st century – poverty, health care, education, gender equality, climate changes and intensive demographic change of generations.

(RATEL, 31/05/2011)

Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (TDB) of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Brahim Sanou, visited the Republic Agency for Electronic Communications (RATEL). During his visit to Belgrade, Mr. Sanou spoke at the opening of the fourth conference on management of the Internet – EuroDig 2011 (European Dialogue on Internet Governance).

(RATEL, 01/06/2011)

Two bilateral agreements have been signed between Serbia and Montenegro regarding coordination of IMT/UMTS systems: the Technical Agreement on Coordination in Border Areas for IMT/UMTS Systems Within GSM Frequency Ranges 880 - 915 / 925 - 960 MHz (GSM 900) and 1710 – 1785 / 1805 - 1880 MHz (GSM 1800), and the Technical Agreement on Coordination in Border Areas for IMT/UMTS Systems Within GSM Frequency Ranges 1900 – 1980 /2010 – 2025 / 2110 – 2170 MHz.

(RATEL, 08/06/2011)

SEEMO

The establishment of public service broadcasters has proved to be a very difficult task in some Eastern European countries. Public broadcasters tend to be used as government mouthpieces rather than as sources of information for the public at large. The Vienna-based South East Europe Media Organisation, SEEMO, an affiliate of the International Press Institute (IPI), shares concern expressed by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) that recent changes to the statute of Radio-Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHRT), the country-wide public broadcaster, may undermine its editorial independence, and called on Parliament to adopt a new statute. In neighboring Croatia, in March 2011, more than 150 journalists working for the public broadcaster Croatian Television (Hrvatska televizija- HTV) signed a petition asking for one simple thing: respect for professional standards. In Hungary, the new Media Law - the implementation of which coincided with the beginning of Hungary's presidency of the European Union - initiated in January 2011 has seriously undermined the independence of the public broadcaster MTV. Boris Bergant, President of the SEEMO board said: "It must be clear and transparent what is controlling, and what management in public service is. The management should work in the interest of the company, not in the interest of political representatives. Boards in public services are founded to work in the interest of the publicity and not in the interest of the political groups". SEEMO Secretary General Oliver Vujovic said: "It is high time that governments understand that public information service is not the same as government information service. I

urge the authorities to respect and support public broadcasters rather than undermine their independence and credibility."

(SEEMO/IPI, 01/06/2011)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA)

The Council of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) rejected on technical grounds the complaint, submitted by the non-governmental organization Civic Vojvodina, against the appointment of the editor-in-chief of the newspaper Zrenjanin, as a member of the Managing Board of Radio-Television Vojvodina (RTV). The complaint states that Dalibor Bubnjevic was a promoter of the book "The Case of Nacionalni Stroj" that was authored by the convicted Goran Davidovic Firer.

(Blic, 02/06/2011)

Coalition of non-governmental organizations "Civic Vojvodina" has demanded immediate removal from position of a member of the Managing Board of Radio-Television of Vojvodina, Dalibor Bubnjevic, who took part in promotion of a book written by the leader of the banned neo-Nazi organization "Nacionalni Stroj".

(Pravda, 06/06/2011)

The Republic Broadcasting Agency (RRA) has published the last public contest for issuance of licenses for broadcasting of radio programme in local areas with correctly filled applications submitted before the application deadline. Criteria for issuance of broadcasting licenses have been published.

(RRA, 06/06/2011)

Media trade unions

Trade Union of the Public Company Radio-Television Kragujevac, "Nezavisnost" ("Independence"), announced its intention to organize an one-hour warning strike because of "low salaries, debts toward the employees, violations of the Collective Contract and abuse aimed at members of the trade union". According to the trade union, the employer and the station's founder, the City of Kragujevac, have not demonstrated willingness to begin negotiations with trade unions in order to solve the numerous problems.

(Beta, Pregled, Danas, Pravda, 26.05.2011)

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Video-on-demand is a new service offered by HBO GO that is available to all internet users subscribed to HBO, at any computer that is connected to the web, it was said at the yesterday's press conference. At the moment, the service can be used within the SBB D3 digital television. The service will be available to subscribers in the ex-Yu region, which means that users can travel through Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Slovenia and Bulgaria, and at the same time enjoy the HBO GO content in each of these countries, provided that adequate internet connection is available.

(Danas, 25/05/2011)

New profile of Kurir

On June 6, daily newspaper Kurir adopted a more modern format with 40 color pages, better paper and twice the amount of information.

(Kurir, 01/06/2011)

We are glad that daily newspaper Kurir has an affirmative attitude towards education and that you have organized an event in the Foundation of Milica Zoric and Rodoljub Colakovic on the occasion of celebration of eight years of company's activities. In this way, you have allowed your friends and associates to become acquainted with the gallery intended for exhibition of modern art, says the note of gratitude for support and financial donation that was sent by Branislav Andjelkovic, director of the Fund of the Museum of Contemporary Art, to Kurir daily newspaper.

(Kurir, 02/06/2011)

New Kurir was published with twice as many pages and with the old price of 20 dinars per copy. The first new issues was free.

(Kurir, 06/06/2011)

All 425,000 copies of Kurir have been delivered to readers in all parts of Serbia.

(Kurir, 07/06/2011)

The digital world comes to Belgrade

We invite everyone who is interested to apply for participation in the conference "The Digital Impact" organized by ABC Serbia, with support from the USAID and IREX, in the Belgrade Hotel Continental on Friday, July 1. Speakers at the event include globally renowned names from the digital business world – Jon Williams, Chief Digital Officer of Grey EMEA from Londona, Brian Morrissey, editor-in-chief of Digiday-a from New York and Tal Navarro, Head of Social Media Adler Chomski Group from Tel Aviv. More details about the event are available at the address: abcsrbija.com/dogadjaji/najave-dogadjaja.html

(ABC Newsletter, 01/06/2011)

Participants of the "EuroDIG" conference have discussed, among other things, the relationship between the new and traditional media. They have pointed out several criteria for making a distinction between these two media types: the intent to distribute information; editorial control; influence over the public; and the ability to reach a large number of people. The perception of users is also relevant in deciding whether a web site is a media outlet or not. Will the traditional media survive in this environment? Most of the participants of the workshop are of the opinion that the traditional media will survive, but only if they use the new media. Just like the telegraph had at first frightened the

newspaper publishers, before they realized that it was the best thing that happened to them. In the end, the information exposed by "Wikileaks" was published by most reputable international newspapers (The New York Times, The Guardian...), affording it greater popularity, significance and credibility than what it would have had if it had been published on a blog.

(Politika, 02/06/2011)

Promotion of the web portal RecSerbia

Internet portal RecSerbia (www.recserbia.rs) is envisioned as a form of info service and media support to the recycling sector in Serbia. The project is organized by the Initiative for Democratic Transition (DTI) and the Center for Development of Social Entrepreneurship (CRSP) from Belgrade. The project was implemented thanks to funds provided by the USAID Serbia Competitiveness Project. Media Center Belgrade is a media partner of the RecSerbia portal.

(Media Center, 07/06/2011)

SES Astra, a part of the SES company, has signed a contract with Telecom Serbia regulating the distribution of Serbian public media services, RTS Sat and Radio Belgrade in the territory of Serbia via the Direct-to-Home system. Since June 1, the channels are being distributed for free using Astra's orbital position.

(Pregled, 08/06/2011)

Other news

Our famous designer, Zvonko Markovic, has recently began working as a stylist on the morning programme of TV B92.

(Blic, 02/06/2011)

Citizens of the municipality of Trstenik who cannot access cable networks have not been able to watch the local RTV because its programme is being aired from a transmitter in Kraljevo. In the words of the president of the municipality, Stevan Djakovic, an agreement was reached with the Eparchy of Zica and TV Logos – programmes "Raskrsca" ("Crossroads") and "Vesti" ("News") will be retransmitted on the channel 12 of the VHF segment. President Djakovic has also announced airing of full-time daily programme of the RTV Trstenik on this channel.

(Pravda, 06/06/2011)

An international scientific event, Fourth Montenegrin Media Dialogs, was held in Bijelo Polje. The event included more than 30 participants from Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Ukraine. The topics of the event covered the following issues: "Digitalization of the Media", "Children and the Media", "Media Concentration" and "Copyright in the Media".

(Danas - Sandžak, 03/06/2011)

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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.

This news bulletin is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and IREX. The contents of this bulletin are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, IREX or the United States Government.

