

Ljubljana, 11. april 2022

Izjava za javnost o tretji redni seji Programskega sveta RTV Slovenija

V ponedeljek, 11. aprila 2022 je potekala tretja redna seja Programskega sveta RTV Slovenija. Ključne poudarke seje podajamo v nadaljevanju.

Politični pritiski na RTV Slovenija

Poleg tekočih zadev je Programski svet posebno pozornost namenil političnim pritiskom na RTV Slovenija.

V razpravi je bilo pojasnjeno, da v razgretim predvolilnem obdobju pred aprilskimi državnozborskimi volitvami nekatere opozicijske politične stranke vršijo pritisk na neodvisne organe RTV Slovenija, in sicer na vodstvo RTV Slovenija, Programski in Nadzorni svet ter na posamezne odgovorne urednike in novinarje RTV Slovenija. Programski svet je zato sprejel izjavo, s katero bo o teh političnih pritiskih seznanil Evropsko komisijo in evropska novinarska združenja. Izjava (v angleškem jeziku) je priložena temu sporočilu za javnost.

Programski svet je v svoji izjavi pojasnil, da so politične stranke SD, SAB, LMŠ, Levica in Gibanje svoboda (oz. njihovi predstavniki v Državnem zboru) sklicali nujno sejo Odbora za kulturo, na kateri so osebno obračunavali z generalnim direktorjem RTV Slovenija, s predsednikom Programskega sveta in s posameznimi uredniki in novinarji RTV Slovenija. Tako so svojo oblastno pozicijo izrabili za ustvarjanje močnega političnega pritiska na neodvisnost RTV Slovenija. Pri tem je Programski svet posebej izpostavil, da Poslovnik Državnega zbora vabljenim ne omogoča, da bi na grobe obtožbe poslancev na seji odbora odgovorili.

V svoji izjavi je Programski svet izpostavil tudi besede varuhinje pravic gledalcev in poslušalcev, ki je v svojem nastopu v Državnem zboru izpostavila močno povečano število žaljivih in neupravičenih odzivov. Pojasnila je, da ti odzivi v predvolilnem času prihajajo predvsem z leve strani. Varuhinja je tudi povedala, da nekateri novinarji in uredniki doživljajo velike pritiske in šikaniranje s strani nekaterih sodelavcev. K temu je dodala, da povečano število različno motiviranih odzivov predstavlja tudi pritisk na varuhinjo, da bi delovala v korist določene skupine ljudi.

V svoji izjavi je Programski svet posebej izpostavil nastop poslanca Marka Koprivca (SD) na nujni seji Odbora za kulturo. Ta je v svoji razpravi pojasnil, da je njihova edina dolžnost kot opozicije in civilne družbe, da takoj spremenijo zakon, ki ureja RTV Slovenija. Poudaril je, da je to treba storiti še pred imenovanjem nove vlade po parlamentarnih volitvah konec aprila. G. Koprivc je dejal, da je treba spremeniti zakon o RTV Slovenija v delu, ki ureja imenovanje

organov upravljanja. Njegovo pojasnilo je mogoče razumeti, da bodo na ta način lahko opozicijske politične stranke imenovale nove člane Programskega sveta RTV Slovenija, kar jim bo omogočilo tudi zamenjavo dosedanjega vodstva in nato še posameznih urednikov.

Šikaniranja posameznih novinarjev

Programski svet se je seznanil z indici, ki kažejo na sume kaznivih dejanj grožnje in šikaniranja na delovnem mestu. Ker se kaznivo dejanje šikaniranja na delovnem mestu skladno s 197. členom Kazenskega zakonika preganja po uradni dolžnosti, je Programski svet priporočil, da vsi, ki bi prepoznali sume tovrstnega kaznivega dejanja na RTV Slovenija, o takih dogodkih obvestijo pristojne organe.

Poleg tega je Programski svet tudi pozval vse zaposlene in honorarne sodelavce RTV Slovenija k spoštljivemu in kulturnemu dialogu, ki ne bo vseboval groženj in sovražnega govora. Programski svet namreč meni, da zgolj tak dialog – tudi izven ožjega novinarskega udejstvovanja – omogoča profesionalnost in strokovnost pri novinarskem delu.

Programski svet je obsodil tudi vse ostale pritiske na novinarje RTV Slovenija. V svojem sklepu je poudaril, da zagovarja odprt prostor javne razprave brez nizkotnega obračunavanja z novinarji ter brez žalitev in zlonamernih laži.

Komisija za spremljanje zakonodajnih sprememb, ki urejajo delovanje RTV Slovenija

Ker se v javnosti vedno pogosteje pojavljajo predlogi za spremembo zakonodaje, ki ureja delovanje RTV Slovenija, je kot svoje začasno posvetovalno delovno telo Programski svet ustanovil Komisijo za spremljanje zakonodajnih sprememb, ki urejajo delovanje RTV Slovenija. V Komisijo je imenoval svoje sledeče člane: Jelka Stergel, Peter Gregorčič, Ivan Kramberger, Vane Gošnik in Klara Remec.

Programski svet je imenovanim članom določil mandat v obdobju 2022-2024, saj tovrstni zakonodajni postopki trajajo okoli dve leti. Člani novoustanovljene komisije bodo na prvi seji komisije izmed sebe izvolili predsednika Komisije in imenovali dva predstavnika v delovno skupino RTV Slovenija za pripravo predloga zakonodajnih sprememb.

Ljubljana, April 11, 2022

The statement about the political pressure on the independent bodies of RTV Slovenia

To whom it may concern

At its 3rd session on April 11, 2022, the RTV Slovenia Programming Council¹ adopted the following statement:

The RTV Slovenia Programming Council would like to draw the attention of the European Commission and European journalists' associations to the political pressure on the independent bodies of RTV Slovenia, namely the management of RTV Slovenia, the RTV Programming Council, the RTV Supervisory Council, and individual editors-in-chief, editors and journalists.

This political pressure before the Slovenian parliamentary elections in April is mostly exerted by the following political parties:

- [Social Democrats](#), led by Mrs. Tanja Fajon
- [Party of Alenka Bratušek](#), led by Mrs. Alenka Bratušek
- [Party of Marjan Šarec](#), led by Mr. Marjan Šarec
- [The Left party](#), led by Mr. Luka Mesec
- [Freedom Movement](#), led by Mr. Robert Golob

From public statements it follows that the above-listed oppositional parties are closely related with the journalist's unions that would like to completely take over the management of RTV Slovenia. On March 23, 2022, these unions organized a public presentation where one of their leaders, Mrs. Helena Milinkovic (from the Coordination of journalists' unions of RTV Slovenia) admitted that they are "acting like guerrillas" with the main aim "to take over RTV Slovenia". In Slovenia, work unions are traditionally closely connected to left-wing politicians and political parties. Thus, some left-wing parties are currently exerting significant pressure on the management of RTV Slovenia and on the RTV Programming Council.

With a clear aim of increasing the political pressure on the independent bodies of RTV Slovenia, the above-listed parties called an emergency session of the Culture Committee of the Slovenian National Assembly. Thus, these politicians attempted to subdue the Chairman of the RTV Programming Council, the Chairman of the RTV Supervisory Council, the management of the RTV Slovenia, the

¹ In accordance with the Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act (ZRTVS-1), the RTV Programming Council is one of the managing bodies of the Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia (*Radiotelevizija Slovenija*; hereinafter: RTV Slovenia). In accordance with the ZRTVS-1, the RTV Slovenia is a public institution of special cultural significance and national importance. RTV Slovenia provides public service radio and television broadcasting thus providing for the democratic, social and cultural needs of citizens of the Republic of Slovenia.

Ombudswoman for the Rights of Viewers and Listeners of RTV Slovenia (i.e., an independent body of RTV Slovenia), and selected editors-in-chief and editors who they believe fail to follow the orders of the above-mentioned politicians. Through such political interrogations, they created a strong political pressure with the main aim to gain a decisive influence on the public media before the parliamentary elections due to take place in late April of this year.

Such political interference with independent media is especially critical due to the fact that in one of the previous sessions of the Culture Committee in the Slovenian National Assembly, the above-listed political parties attempted to declare that the non-participation of representatives of RTV Slovenia represents an act of disrespect of the National Assembly and diminishes the reputation and public interest of RTV Slovenia. In this way, these politicians escalate political pressure to ensure the participation of the representatives of the independent bodies of RTV Slovenia in the sessions of the National Assembly, where individual members of the parliament (politicians) conduct *ad-personam* attacks on the representatives of RTV Slovenia. It is necessary to mention that the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly do not allow the invited individuals to respond to such personal attacks, as they only have the right to a brief, 5-minute presentation of their views before the Committee members express their (political) views.

In her speech at National Assembly, the Ombudswoman for the Rights of Viewers and Listeners of RTV Slovenia also confirmed the significant political pressure on selected journalists and editors of RTV Slovenia. She emphasized the significantly increased number of insulting and unjustified reactions from the parliamentary opposition (tightly connected to the above-listed parties) during the pre-election period. The Ombudswoman explained that some journalists and editors who strictly follow the professional guidelines experience significant pressure and mobbing from some journalists that act as political activists. She also explained that the increased number of politically-motivated responses also put pressure on the Ombudswoman to act in favor of a certain group of (politically motivated) people.

During his discussion, the deputy Mr. Marko Koprivc (member of the Social Democrats) explained that their only duty as the opposition and as civil society is to immediately change the legislative framework governing RTV Slovenia. He emphasized that this must be done even before the appointment of the new government after elections at the end of April. Mr. Koprivc explained that it is necessary to amend the RTV Slovenia Act in the part that governs the appointment of the management bodies. He further clarified that in this way they will be able to remove the current independent bodies of RTV Slovenia, which will allow the above-listed parties to appoint new members into the RTV Programming Council² and, consequently, to replace the current management and then individual editors of RTV Slovenia.

The Programming Council shall continue to resist the political pressures described above, prevent political interference in the management of RTV Slovenia and act as a guardian of the independence of RTV Slovenia as Slovenia's public service broadcaster.

² The Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act stipulates that the RTV Programming Council comprise 29 members involving all relevant social stakeholders, of which:

- one member shall be appointed by the Hungarian ethnic community;
- one member shall be appointed by the Italian ethnic community,
- one member shall be appointed by the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts;
- two members shall be appointed by the President of the Republic on the proposal of registered religious communities;
- three members shall be appointed from among themselves by employees of RTV Slovenia in direct elections such that the areas of information, the arts and technology are represented;
- five members shall be appointed by the National Assembly of Slovenia on the proposal of political parties,
- sixteen members shall be appointed by the National Assembly of Slovenia on the proposal of viewers and listeners of RTV Slovenia; of the universities and faculties; and of non-government organizations.