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Date: 14/04/2025
Belgrade

Report of the Monitoring and Analysis Service of the REM, ex officio procedure

	Procedure initiated ex officio
	Complainant: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Ex officio procedure	Against: Insajder tim doo, Belgrade - Informer TV, Bulevar Peke Dapčevića 17, Belgrade Date of receipt: 16 and 17 March 2025
Report	The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media received several letters relating to content broadcast in the programme of Informer TV on 16 March 2025 in the programme titled Kolegijum. All complaints state that "in the aforementioned programme, following a report on the use of what was at that time an unidentified weapon against citizens who were holding, on 15 March 2025 at 7 p.m, a 15-minute vigil for the victims of the tragedy in Novi Sad, at a peaceful protest, the host Dragan J. Vučićević said: "About this cannon, a song request perhaps, anyone?". The complainants consider such a statement "extremely inappropriate and offensive", as a "form of hate speech directed against opponents" and "causing public distress". "It is particularly worrying that in the next 24 hours, information about the health consequences suffered by the protest participants emerged, which further indicates the seriousness of the situation and the insensitivity of the statement made. Such a comment not only diminishes the importance of the event and suffering of citizens, but may also contribute to causing public distress and incitement of intolerance", one

of the letters said. The content, as stated in all the complaints, was broadcast on 16/03/2025 at 00:04:54.

A review of the programme found that at the time in question, the programme called *Kolegijum* was in progress, it was broadcast live, with the participation of the editor-in-chief of that television station, Dragan J. Vučićević, his associates and guests, including Vladimir Djukanović, an MP of the Serbian Progressive Party. Although the *Kolegijum* show belongs to the news and current affairs category and gives an overview of current affairs with comments made by the editors of the TV station, at the previously mentioned time, in the studio there was a celebratory atmosphere: Dragan J. Vučićević played music, they requested songs, the guests in the studio were singing. Approximately at the time stated in the letters (00:04:46), reading the messages on his phone, Vladimir Djukanović, said: "Here's a special one, regarding this sonic cannon, the song 'Wind, blow a little across my liver', which was followed by laughter and the guests in the studio continued to sing. Vučićević noted that they were the TV station with the highest rating in Serbia by far and that "people want to celebrate", while Djukanović added that "the counter-revolution has won". "Enough, already. Long live the counter-revolution," exclaimed Vučićević. Soon after that, Djukanović repeated (00:05:49): "Here, you have 'Wind, blow a little across my liver'. Just because of the sonic cannon."

Vučićević: "Sure. It is a song request."

Djukanović: "He says just because of the sonic cannon."

Vučićević (00:06:02): 'Wind, blow a little across my liver', that is Baja, too." He played the song and added to the lyrics of the song: "Of course they cannot touch us. Afterwards we should also play Mitar Mirić's "No one can touch us".

00:06:31 Djukanović: "Now, this is just because of the sonic cannon."

Vučićević: "Yes, yes, this is for the sonic cannon."

Later in the programme, music requests were played, viewers tuned in to comment on the events in Belgrade, the host greeted "ćacis", announcing another "dozen or so arrests". In a conversation with viewers, whom he invited to call in and say what they thought about "what happened" and "those who tried to carry out a revolution", Vučićević commented: "We won, you saw"; "They call us the free-lunch brigade, but we absolutely devoured them. Well, we're constantly devouring them"; "We can say, thank God, that we have a little spontaneously decided to celebrate the beginning of the counterrevolution. How do you respond to what happened in Belgrade today?", and to the viewer's response, that he hoped things would get better, he continued: "They will, they will. They must. You know, it is good that those for whom Kurti was cheering have been defeated,"; "Cheers, my Serb brothers. Congratulations on our victory, this small victory and a great counterrevolution." When Dejan Vukelić, deputy editor-in-chief of *Informer* TV, noted that "these people are still only talking about a sonic cannon", Vučićević said: "Well, this is their sonic cannon... Control room, please turn up the volume of the sonic cannon" and in the studio jokes continued to be made about "Informer's sonic cannon". Towards the end of the programme, a video edit was shown of Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić playing the accordion, to which the studio responded with enthusiasm and laughter, with Vučićević jumping up and down, exclaiming: "Crush it, President... let's go... Vule is rocking it, Vule's the man... the President's pumping it like Bata Kanda... pump it up, pump it up... what a sonic cannon this is". To Vladimir Djukanović's comment that "the revolution has failed because of the sonic cannon", Vučićević added: "Maybe they could have dragged themselves along somehow; now after this sonic cannon, there is no way."

It was also noted that, simultaneously with the developments in the studio, on part of the screen, footage was shown of the arrests of six opposition and youth activists in Novi Sad on suspicion of criminal offence of preparing acts against the constitutional order and security of Serbia. Broadcasting of the arrest footage began fifteen minutes before midnight (15 March), at the request of Dragan Vučićević, who, reading messages on the phone, said "viewers are giving me a heads up, asking when the show would start". "Here's the point; we have the footage of all these arrested terrorists, who have been arrested. Six have been arrested, six are still on the run. All twelve will be arrested, have no doubt about it... so you have six arrests, and let's watch how we arrest, how we arrest, how the government arrests terrorists." Vučićević asked the control room to play and loop the recordings of the arrests, and when the broadcasting of recordings of the arrests starts, he played music, the song by Baja Mali Knindza called Sing, Serbia, commenting that the arrest scenes were "a sight for our sore eyes". "This is just, how shall I put it... it looks great, they are arresting these terrorist, these terrorist scoundrels, and Baja is singing... see how good they are arresting them, huh? ... greetings to the terrorists out of the Croatian corner who are watching this... greetings to Mila and other refugees... Pump it up, pump it up. Now you'll see how it's done." As songs appropriate for the moment, the following ones are played: "There is no king, there is no Tito, Vučić is still the one making decisions around here", "Every lowlife would like to kill a wolf", etc. Recordings of the arrests were replayed with brief interruptions from 23:44:58 to 01:07:28 (15/16 March), and the programme lasted until 01:15:10.

In the segment of the programme under observation (from 23:45:00 to 01:15:10, 15/16 March), among others, the following tickers were broadcast: "Terrorists who were filmed planning a civil war at a secret meeting arrested", "Danger! Extremists attack students who want to study in the Pioneers Park, pelt them with stones, firecrackers, including high-powered ones...", "Anti-Serb extremists are issuing threats of terrorist violence during the protest in Belgrade".

In its news and current affairs programme, regarding the way it was executed, with celebration, song requests, gloating and ridiculing of political opponents, as well as regarding the possibility that a sonic weapon was used against protest participants, the media service provider behaved in a biased manner, without concern appropriate to the current social moment and contrary to the rules of the journalistic profession. By insisting that the recordings of the arrests of activists in Novi Sad be replayed, describing them as "terrorists", Informer TV did not respect the presumption of innocence and personal dignity.

Offences:

Law on Electronic Media, Article 61, Paragraph 1 (In relation to its programme content and in accordance with its programme concept, the media service provider shall: 1) provide free, true, objective, complete and timely information);

Rulebook on the Protection of Human Rights in the Area of Media Service Provision, Article 7, Paragraph 3 (Within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, the media service provider shall in particular separate factual reporting clearly from opinions or comments, ensure that a personal belief of the editor or journalist does not have a discriminatory impact on the selection of the topic and the manner of its presentation, not broadcast comments of an offensive nature, and shall refrain from manipulating statements, communications, photographs and other content in order to

	<p>change their basic meaning.);</p> <p>Rulebook on the Protection of Human Rights in the Area of Media Service Provision, Article 9, Paragraph 1 (The current affairs programme host may present, during the programme, his or her opinion on the issue that is the topic of the said programme, but the media service provider must not allow the host to use such an opportunity to promote personal beliefs in a manner that violates the obligation of the media service provider to provide objective information to the public);</p> <p>Rulebook on the Protection of Human Rights in the Area of Media Service Provision, Article 30, Paragraph 1 (The media service provider may not designate as the perpetrator of a criminal offense a person against whom the criminal procedure has been initiated or against whom actions have been taken that precede the criminal procedure (e.g. arrest, hearing of the arrested, detention of the suspect), before a final decision of the court determining his culpability).</p>
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Monitoring and Analysis Service
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