



REGULATORY
AUTHORITY FOR
ELECTRONIC
MEDIA

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Report of the Monitoring and Analysis Service of the REM

Ex officio procedure	<p>Against: <i>Insajder tim d.o.o., Beograd - Informer TV</i></p> <p>Summary: Based on the complaint of the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA), the Monitoring and Analysis Service was informed about the content broadcast on Informer TV on 17 December 2024, in which, as stated, the violations of the prohibition of hate speech and violations of the obligation to respect human rights and personal dignity were observed.</p> <p>At the request of the Regulator, the media service provider submitted a recording of the broadcast programme.</p>
Report	<p>Based on the complaint of the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA), the REM Monitoring and Analysis Service was informed about the disputed content broadcast on Informer TV on 17 December 2024, in Info jutro show. By examining the submitted video, it was determined that Igor Bećić, MP of the Serbian Progressive Party and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Security Service Oversight, and Nikola Belić, Politika daily journalist appeared as guests in the show (beginning of guest appearances 10:08:46). Igor Bećić first stated (read) the following: <i>...that all the requests of the students have been met and now the responsibility is lies with those who initiated the blockades. But it is symptomatic that in, right at the moment when this is being discussed, a text appears in Amnesty International, and they release their study, and an attempt, which I consider a cheap sensationalist content that points to the interests of certain agencies and we see that our country is the target of a brutal hybrid war launched because of the independent policy conducted by Belgrade.</i></p>



The host then asks leading questions such as the following: *Does this address of President Vučić seem to you as a threat? Mr. Belić, are these arguments conflated by accident or intentionally when it comes to the opposition? Have you, Mr. Bećić, heard the latest threats against Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vučević, where they say he would end up like Ceausescu?*

Bećić replied, presenting the information from the Committee for Security Service Oversight meeting, that those threats were constant and significantly increasing in numbers compared to the previous reports. He especially pointed out the threats against President Vučić and his family: *And President Vučić is going through hell, when it comes to these threats on a daily basis, not only against him but also against his family.* He also mentioned Marinika Tepić, that she was a member of the aforementioned committee, but that she had not had the patience to stay until the end of the oversight visit to the Security Intelligence Agency: *...instead, after about half an hour she left when she saw that everything she had been saying in public was simply not true.*

The host: *What do you think of the newly elected leader of the Democratic Party, Srdjan Milivojević?* Bećić: *Well, I think the Democratic Party is completely gone, it has hit bottom because it is simply certain that after all those leaders... We simply now have a situation where we have a town crier who only relays the interests of others and we have seen even in the media that the duo from Šabac is trying to run the party through the current elected president.*

The host: *Let's see how this gentleman uses threats, invoking the Syrian scenario in Serbia.*

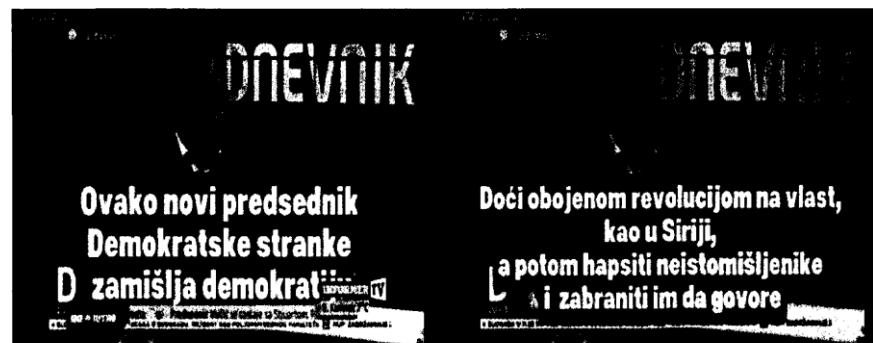
Then an edited video with music was broadcast, in which segments from the appearance of Milivojević on TV Nova S were shown, as well as recordings from the protests in Novi Sad.

Milivojević: *He is obviously wishing the fate of Bashar al-Assad upon himself.*



If we had a majority in the National Assembly, Ana Brnabić would not sit there for a minute. If we had a majority, and the moment comes, and it will come very soon, when the Democratic Party becomes the backbone of the future majority, we will have a new Bashar al-Assad. Only he will not fly to Moscow; instead, he will probably fly to Dubai and Abu Dhabi where his money is already waiting. There is only one problem, someone will tell Djura to block the airport.

The statements were captioned in large letters, and several times, as a comment between the statements, the following messages were written on freeze frames: *This is how the new President of the Democratic Party imagines democracy. Coming to power through coloured revolution, as in Syria, and then arresting the opponents and forbidding them from speaking.*

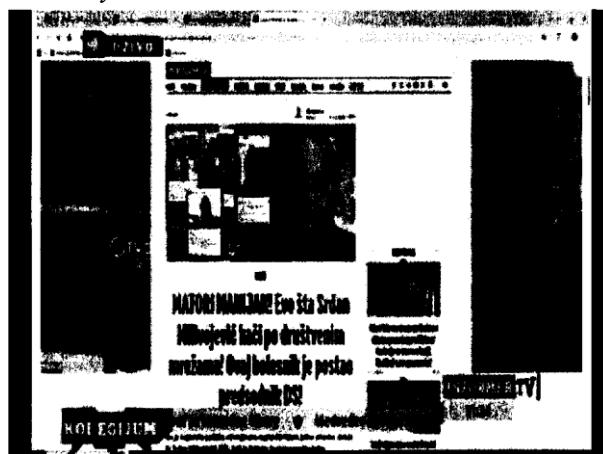


Next, in the video, Milivojević addresses the police in Novi Sad: *Do you see what is happening on the streets of Serbia? Did you see how Assad fled to Moscow? Was there room on the plane for the chief of police? Was there room for the Minister of the Interior? Was there room for those who beat people in that horrible prison? Think about it and think about the fact that we will tell Djura to block the airport. No one will escape!*



The video ended with a freeze frame with a written text: *Democracy according to the loudmouth from the parliament* (video duration 10:14:03— 10:15:29).

On the same day, Srdjan Milivojević was also discussed in the *Kolegium* show (11:33:59), with extremely offensive and discrediting statements by several *Informer TV* journalists and a freeze frame with the following content: *The old maniac! This is what Srdjan Milivojević is posting on social media! This sick man has become the president of the Democratic Party.*



Conclusion

By examining the *Info jutro* broadcast, which lasted until 10:34:04, a clear intention was observed to use the guest appearances of Bećić and Belić to discredit Srdjan Milivojević, President of the Democratic Party.

The previously edited video, with subtitles and music, went beyond the scope of argumentative criticism to which politicians, their statements and actions do succumb, they are desirable, and facilitate the formation of free opinion and political orientation of each individual. The journalist steered the conversation, insults and disrespect, with leading questions, while the content edited manipulatively crudely insulted Milivojević and further exposed him to demonisation for the statements given, without providing him with the opportunity to respond to the unilateral media attack. The *Kolegijum* show, which was broadcast on the same day, was also used for unsubstantiated criticism of Milivojević and his election as the president of the Democratic Party, for severe insults and discrimination. In the above content, by resorting to mockery, name-calling, accusations of subverting the constitutional order, the media service provider violated the obligation to respect human rights and personal dignity. The insults that were said cannot, however, be classified as hate speech, and belong to the body of information and ideas aimed at discrediting the political position of the Democratic Party President. In view of the definition of such a goal and purpose of the broadcast content, the element that the information broadcast encouraged in an overt or covert manner hatred based on a personal characteristic, in this case political conviction, was missing.

The inserts broadcast are in violation of the **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;;*
- 4) *provide a variety of content in terms of opportunities for free expression, political and critical thinking, as well as within the type and character of the programmes;*

Article 70, Paragraph 1- *Media services shall be provided in a manner that respects human rights and especially personal dignity;*

and the Rulebook on the Protection of Human Rights in the Area of Media Service Provision:

Article 5, Paragraphs 1, 2- *The media service provider shall ensure the truthfulness and completeness of information, as well as the veracity and completeness of the ideas and opinions it*

broadcasts, especially in the news and current affairs programs with due care corresponding to circumstances and in accordance with the rules of the journalistic profession.

The media service provider shall provide information to media service users based on facts obtained from a number of different sources, as well as provide a variety of views, opinions and issues discussed in the public within its news and current affairs programme.

Article 7, Paragraphs 1, 3 - *When providing information to the public, the media service provider shall ensure objectivity in its information provision that is appropriate to the nature of the information, the area of social life to which it relates and the nature of the programme content in which the information is broadcast, with the highest degree of objectivity required when providing information about the issues referred to in the Article 6, paragraph 1 of this Rulebook.*

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 change their basic meaning.

Article 8, Paragraph 1, 2 - *If information in connection with which a particular person has a justified interest in making a statement is aired in the programme, and especially if allegations of incompetence, immoral or unlawful actions are presented or a dispute involving a conflict of opinions or views, the media service provider shall provide an opportunity for such person to respond to the released information, or participate in the discussion in an equal manner.*

Within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this article, it is not permitted in particular to broadcast unilateral attacks on a person or conduct prolonged or repeated campaigns in connection with a particular person without relevant new data that would justify prolonged or repeated reporting on the same person, event or phenomenon.

Article 9, Paragraph 3 - *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.*

Article 26, Paragraph 1 - *The media service provider shall respect the personal dignity (honour, reputation or respect) and the right to authenticity of the person to whom the information broadcast relates.*

I propose the initiation of an examination procedure

REM Monitoring and Analysis Service