

## Economia supports free journalism in the region

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Economia and Zdenek Bakala believe the key to supporting democracy and media freedom in the Czech Republic means being willing to stand alongside our friends throughout the region, and particularly in countries like Hungary, with whom we share more than a history. If we are to protect our fledgling democracies, we must do so together.

Like many others committed to free speech, both the management and the owner of the media house Economia have been following the situation at Index with concern. The departure of the majority of the newsroom may mean the end of a genuinely independent and respected voice in the region. Fortunately, the former Index team are now launching a new independent project of high-quality journalism, an online news portal called Telex.

In a spirit of solidarity, the Board and owner of the media house have decided to support Telex project with a donation in the amount of EUR 200,000 (over CZK 5.5 million) to the early costs of launching the new medium.

The publishing houses will work through the details of the donation and will also establish links for further cooperation, including supporting Telex in the establishment of an editorial independence committee.

Economia media house is a major player in the field of online media, digitisation of media content and a significant publisher of economic and specialist press. Economia operates the successful czech news servers iHNed.cz and Aktuálně.cz, many thematic website titles and free e-mail portals. We publish the daily newspaper Hospodářské noviny, weeklies Ekonom and Respekt and also a number of B2B titles.

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