

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE**

of the company Economia, a.s.

for the period from 19 September 2019 to 31 August 2020

The Committee for Editorial Independence of the company Economia, a.s., Id. No.: 281 91 226, with its registered office in Pernerova 673/47, 186 00 Praha 8 - Karlín, registered in the Commercial Register maintained by the Municipal Court in Prague, File No. B 12746 (the "Committee") issues this summary report on its activities for the period from 19 September 2019 to 31 August 2020:

1. ESTABLISHMENT, ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was established on the initiative of Economia's sole shareholder Zdeněk Bakala and the Board of Directors to help safeguard and guarantee the editorial independence of all Economia's publications and online media. The primary function of the Committee is to protect editors and journalists from any proprietorial interference.

The Committee is a body of the company Economia, and its status and role are enshrined in the Articles of Association of Economia. The Committee deals exclusively with media freedom and editorial independence. It is not responsible for the oversight of the company's internal labour, strategy, organization or compliance issues. The Committee is completely independent, and it reports neither to the Board of Directors, Supervisory Board nor to the shareholder.

The Committee in particular:

- Protects the editorial independence of the company's journalism;
- Promotes free media and recognition of their importance both in the Czech Republic and the wider CEE region;
- Serves as a platform for nurturing co-operation in the media industry;
- Advocates for media freedom through its public statements;
- Submits to the Board of Directors its opinions and recommendations;
- Proposes to the Board of Directors measures it considers appropriate, and
- May at any time request from the Board of Directors information on the affairs of the company relevant to its role.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was established in September 2019 and its first members took office on 19 September 2019. From 19 September 2019 to 30 November 2019, the Committee had four members, from 1 December 2019 to 31 March 2020 three members and from 1 April 2020 it has four members.

The Committee was composed as follows:

Name	Position	Membership in the Committee
Misha Glenny	Chairman of the Committee	19 Sept. 2019 – present
Alice Bota	Member of the Committee	19 Sept. 2019 – 30 Nov. 2019
Aleksander Kaczorowski	Member of the Committee	19 Sept. 2019 – present
Václav Štětka	Member of the Committee	19 Sept. 2019 – present
Alexandra Borchardt	Member of the Committee	1 April 2020 – present

3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

During the first year since its incorporation, two regular Committee meetings were held. At the first meeting on 19 September and 20 September 2019, the Council addressed, among other things, its aspirations and compiled a statement of objectives. At the meeting on 27 February 2020, the Committee adopted its charter and discussed a plan of activities. At both meetings, Committee members discussed the state of media freedom in the CEE region. Between meetings, the Committee fulfilled its role through remote communication with administrative and organizational support provided by the Committee Secretary.

4. RECEIVED SUBMISSIONS

The email address rada@economia.cz is designated to receive submissions both from within Economia, as well as from individuals or organizations outside the Economia media house. The Committee also receives submissions by post addressed to Economia for the attention of the Committee Secretary. Employees, members of the company's bodies or collaborators of Economia may also deliver submissions directly to the Chairman of the Committee.

In the period from 19 September 2019 to 31 August 2020, a total of 91 submissions or other messages were received, of which 90 to the email address rada@economia.cz and one to the data box of Economia, for the attention of the Committee. The nature of the submissions and their numbers are stated in the following overview:

Category of submission/message	Number of submissions
I. Submissions addressed to the Committee	78
a) Relating to the areas of competence of the Committee	2
Alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Inquiries about independence of editorial content from the shareholder	1
Alleged interference in editorial content by other persons	1
b) Outside the remit of the Committee	76
Requests related to published content	17
Readers' feedback to editorial content	7
Non editorial requests	9
Commercial offers, advertising inquiries	11
Press releases; inquiries and offers to publish content in Economia titles	21
Incoherent or vulgar messages	3
Inquiries and messages without relevance to Economia	8
II. Submissions addressed to other people; the Committee copied	13
Of which alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Total number of submissions	91

None of the submissions received alleged that editorial independence of the titles of the media house Economia had been affected by inappropriate interference from its shareholder, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the Committee did not address any case on the basis of which the Committee, within the scope of its responsibility, would submit a recommendation or a proposal for the adoption of measures to the Board of Directors of the company.

5. STATEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee continues to support the unimpeded access of journalists to state authorities in the Czech Republic. On 23 March 2020, the Committee published a statement in response to the decision to limit the number of news media with authorized access to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic during the coronavirus crisis. The Committee expressed its deep concern regarding the restriction of journalists' access to the Chamber of Deputies, and referred to the legitimate role of media in a democratic society. It urged that journalists must have full access both to government and to Parliament in times of national emergency when lives are at stake. The Committee notes restrictions on journalists' access to state authorities in the Czech Republic were later relieved.

6. CONCLUSION

In the period from 19 September 2019 to 31 August 2020, the Committee for Editorial Independence performed its activities and fulfilled its role in accordance with the Articles of Association of the company and with the Committee charter. During this period, the Committee did not find any case of affecting the editorial content of the titles published by the media house Economia by inappropriate interference by the shareholder. The Committee actively supported the freedom of journalistic work in the Czech Republic.

7. ADDRESSEES OF THE REPORT AND ITS PUBLICATION

This summary report will be distributed to Economia's Board of Directors, the Supervisory Board and the sole shareholder. This report will also be published on the website Economia.cz.

In London on 17 September 2020



Misha Glenny
Chairman of the Committee for Editorial Independence

This report was approved by the Committee for Editorial Independence on 17 September 2020 and is issued in Czech and English language versions.