

Brussels, 1st December 2023

Dear Esteemed Vice-President of the European Commission, Ms. Jourova,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you since you promised a steadfast commitment to media freedom and vigilant monitoring of developments surrounding the political takeover of RTV. Considering this I pose the following inquiries, as your responses are crucial in shedding light on the stance of the European Commission and yourself, particularly concerning actions that may compromise the rule of law and jeopardize media freedom.

1. What is your response to the decision by the current management of RTV to withdraw the proposal for the constitutional review of the RTV Slovenia Act?

During your visit to the Constitutional Court, you expressed a desire for expeditious rulings regarding the constitutional review of the RTV Slovenia Act. The withdrawal of the constitutional review proposal implies the removal of the possibility for the Constitutional Court to assess the compatibility of the Law on RTV with the Slovenian constitution. Simultaneously, this reinforces the notion that the RTV Slovenia Act was conducted in contravention of the constitution, with the sole objective of fully politicizing public media. I am curious to hear your reflections on why the current RTV Slovenia management might shy away from constitutional scrutiny.

2. What is your perspective on the removal of certain journalists from their positions and the cancellation of broadcasts critical of the government following the appointment of the new management at RTV?

I am seeking your response to the recent dismissals of journalists and the cancellation of broadcasts critical of the Government under the new management of RTV. The abrupt termination of positions, coupled with reported instances of relentless mobbing, particularly targeting those journalists not fully aligned with the new leadership and the Government, raises serious questions. Some journalists even sought medical assistance due to the stressful environment. The cancellation of shows that provided critical perspectives on government actions hints at a concerning trend. We have previously provided you with detailed information on these matters. Furthermore, a recent development has been the rumoured cancellation of a satirical show notorious for being critical of the current Government.

3. What is your assessment of the Prime Minister's public declaration advocating the need to purge the Police force and RTV Slovenia of individuals he slanderously labeled as "Janšists"?

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As I have already pointed out in my past writings the Prime Minister made public statements regarding the necessity to "cleanse" the police and RTV of "Janšists." The Prime Minister's proclamations came following the resignation of the Minister of Internal Affairs, who accused him of political interference in police staffing. On the surface his words indicate a desire to remove individuals associated with the policies of the former Prime Minister Janez Janša, however the term "Janšists" has a broader meaning in Slovenia – it is applied to all those critical of the current government's policies. Please note that the Prime Minister insisted on specific personnel changes within the police force based on his personal preferences, thus it becomes evident that he harbors similar expectations for RTV Slovenia. I am eager to obtain your perspective on the repercussions of explicit political declarations concerning the "cleansing processes" pledged by the Prime Minister.

4. **Given the current developments in the Slovenian media landscape, do you believe that media freedom is assured in Slovenia?**
5. **What steps does the European Commission plan to take to safeguard the rule of law and uphold media freedom in Slovenia?**

I am expecting to receive accurate responses at your earliest convenience,

Respectfully,


Romana Tomc

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