

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE**

of the company Economia, a.s.

for the period from 1 September 2020 to 15 September 2021

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 1 September 2020 to 15 September 2021:

1. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was established in September 2019 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 also seeks to improve not only the Czech media environment, but also to advance the journalistic culture of Central and Eastern Europe, and possibly of other countries.

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

From 1 September 2020, the Committee was composed as follows:

Name	Position
Misha Glenny	Chairman of the Committee
Alexandra Borchart	Member of the Committee
Aleksander Kaczorowski	Member of the Committee
Václav Štětka	Member of the Committee

3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

During the second year since its incorporation, two regular Committee meetings were held, on 17 - 18 September 2020 and 22 - 23 February 2021. 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 and, since August 2021, also via the web form placed on the Committee's website free.economia.cz. 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 2020 to 15 September 2021, a total of 151 submissions or other messages were received, of which 150 to the email address rada@economia.cz and one via the web form. 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	133
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	2
Alleged interference in editorial content by other persons	0
b) Outside the remit of the Committee	131
Requests related to published content	4
Readers' feedback to editorial content	17
Non editorial requests	11
Commercial offers, advertising inquiries	16
Press releases; inquiries and offers to publish content in Economia titles	48
Incoherent or vulgar messages	20
Inquiries and messages without relevance to Economia	15
II. Submissions addressed to other people; the Committee copied	18
Of which alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Total number of submissions	151

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. ADVOCACY OF FREE MEDIA

During the period covered by this report, the Committee focused on analyzing the state of media freedom in the Central European countries and decided to make an immediate contribution to its defense. Together with the Association of Independent Journalists, a network of leading journalists from Central and Eastern Europe, it published the report “Europe’s Free Press under Siege” highlighting the recent attacks on European media freedom, referring to the deteriorating situation in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia and calling on the European Commission to find mechanisms to help protect this most basic democratic right in all member states. The Committee supported the open letter to EC Vice-President Jourová, as well as open letters to Commissioners Breton and Reynders, in which the Association of Independent Journalists offered to meet EU officials to discuss ways they can provide support for practical solutions to secure media freedom.

6. CONCLUSION

In the period from 1 September 2020 to 15 September 2021, 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 participated in an initiative to promote media freedom in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

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 free.economia.cz.

In Prague on 24 September 2021



Misha Glenny
Chairman of the Committee for Editorial Independence

This report was approved by the Committee for Editorial Independence on 24 September 2021 and is issued in Czech and English language versions.