

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE**

of the company Economia, a.s.

for the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 August 2023

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 October 2022 to 31 August 2023:

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 October 2022, the Committee was composed as follows:

Name	Position	Membership in the Committee
Tessa Szyszkowitz	Chairperson of the Committee	1 October 2022 – present
Alexandra Borchart	Member of the Committee	1 October 2022 – present
Aleksander Kaczorowski	Member of the Committee	1 October 2022 – present
Václav Štětko	Member of the Committee	1 October 2022 – present

Misha Glenny is an honorary member of the Committee since 1 July 2022.

3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

During the fourth year since its incorporation, two Committee meetings were held, on 7 October 2022 and 24 April 2023. 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 as well as the web form placed on the Committee's website free.economia.cz are 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 Chairperson of the Committee.

In the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 August 2023, a total of 88 submissions or other messages were received, of which 84 to the email address rada@economia.cz and 4 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	78
a) Relating to the areas of competence of the Committee	1
Alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Inquiries about independence of editorial content from the shareholder	1
Requests to investigate the objectivity of the editorial content	0
b) Outside the remit of the Committee	77
Requests related to published content	3
Readers' feedback to editorial content	18
Non editorial requests	12
Commercial offers, advertising inquiries	9
Press releases; inquiries and offers to publish content in Economia titles	24
Incoherent or vulgar messages	6
Inquiries and messages without relevance to Economia	5
II. Submissions addressed to other people; the Committee copied	10
Of which alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Total number of submissions	88

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. The Committee dealt with one request from inside the newsroom to review a decision on the personnel composition of the editorial office, concluding that there was no intervention of the shareholder nor the members of the Board of Directors in the given case. 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 initiated the second year of the survey of public attitudes towards media independence in Czechia, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, supported by Reporters Without Borders and the Bakala Foundation. The Committee organized a panel debate on the survey results with journalists and experts from the entire Central European region which took place at Gazeta Wyborcza's offices in Warsaw on 24 April 2023. Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission, also took part in the debate. The survey showed that negative impacts of media owners and governments influencing journalistic content have become more apparent to the public. Strong support exists for media independence from the government, unlinking media from political parties, and ensuring truthful, factually accurate content. The public also highly supports transparency in media ownership and disclosing conflicts of interest between owners and content. Leading European media and journalistic organizations reported on the survey.

6. CONCLUSION

In the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 August 2023, 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 contributed to public debate on the promotion of 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 London on 18 September 2023



Tessa Szyszkowitz
Chairperson of the Committee for Editorial Independence

This report was approved by the Committee for Editorial Independence on 18 September 2023 and is issued in Czech and English language versions.