

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE**

**of the company Economia, a.s.**

for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

*The Committee for Editorial Independence of the company Economia, a.s., Id. No.: 281 91 226, with its registered office at Pod Dráhou 1637/2, 170 00 Praha 7 – Holešovice, 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 2023 to 31 August 2024:*

## **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 2023, the Committee was composed as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Membership in the Committee</b>
Tessa Szyszkowitz	Chairperson of the Committee	1 September 2023 – present
Alexandra Borchart	Member of the Committee	1 September 2023 – present
Aleksander Kaczorowski	Member of the Committee	1 September 2023 – present
Václav Štětka	Member of the Committee	1 September 2023 – present

Misha Glenny is an honorary member of the Committee.

### 3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

During the fifth year since its incorporation, three Committee meetings were held, on 18 September 2023, 19 January 2024 and 25 April 2024. 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](mailto:rada@economia.cz) as well as the web form placed on the Committee's website [free.economia.cz](http://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 September 2023 to 31 August 2024, a total of 91 submissions or other messages were received, of which 85 to the email address [rada@economia.cz](mailto:rada@economia.cz), 5 via the web form and 1 by post mail. The nature of the submissions and their numbers are stated in the following overview:

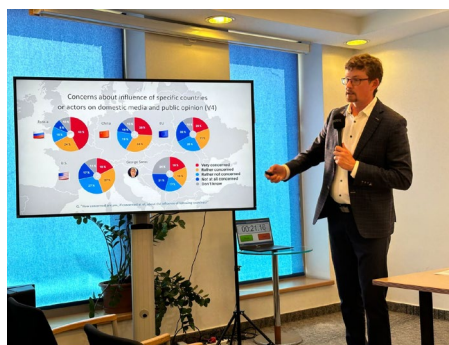
<b>Category of submission/message</b>	<b>Number of submissions</b>
<b>I. Submissions addressed to the Committee</b>	<b>83</b>
a) Relating to the areas of competence of the Committee	0
Alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Inquiries about independence of editorial content from the shareholder	0
Requests to investigate the objectivity of the editorial content	0
b) Outside the remit of the Committee	83
Requests related to published content	2
Readers' feedback to editorial content	14
Non editorial requests	10
Commercial offers, advertising inquiries	14
Press releases; inquiries and offers to publish content in Economia titles	34
Incoherent or vulgar messages	6
Inquiries and messages without relevance to Economia	3
<b>II. Submissions addressed to other people; the Committee copied</b>	<b>8</b>
Of which alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
<b>Total number of submissions</b>	<b>91</b>

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 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 published the report Addressing Public Concern over Media Freedom. Based on findings from the Media Freedom Poll 2023, a survey of public attitudes towards media freedom in the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, the Committee proposed a set of recommendations aimed at restoring public trust in the media. The report provides key recommendations for journalists, publishers, media policy makers and regulators in the Central European region.

The Committee also initiated the third year of Media Freedom Poll which took place in the spring of 2024 with the support of the Bakala Foundation. In cooperation with the Reporters Without Borders, the Committee organized a panel debate on the findings of the survey with journalists and experts from the Central European region which took place at the premises of the HVG publishing house in Budapest on 25 April 2024. The survey revealed significant shifts in public attitudes towards media freedom, driven by political changes and growing concerns over Russian interference in the region. Leading European media and journalistic organizations reported on the survey.



## 6. CONCLUSION

In the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024, 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 has 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](https://www.free.economia.cz).

In Prague on 19 September 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dr. Tessa Szyszkowitz".

Tessa Szyszkowitz  
Chairperson of the Committee for Editorial Independence

*This report was approved by the Committee for Editorial Independence on 19 September 2024 and is issued in Czech and English language versions.*