

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE

of the company Economia, a.s.

for the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

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, Holešovice, 170 00 Praha 7, 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 2024 to 31 August 2025:

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 editorial independence and media freedom. 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 2024 till 31 August 2025, the Committee was composed as follows:

Name	Position
Tessa Szyszkowitz	Chairperson of the Committee
Alexandra Borhardt	Member of the Committee
Aleksander Kaczorowski	Member of the Committee
Václav Štětko	Member of the Committee

Misha Glenny was an honorary member of the Committee.

3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

During the sixth year since its incorporation, three Committee meetings were held, on 19 September 2024, 29 January 2025 and 12 May 2025. 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](https://www.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 2024 to 31 August 2025, a total of 102 submissions or other messages were received, of which 97 to the email address rada@economia.cz and 5 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	91
a) Relating to the areas of competence of the Committee	3
Alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Inquiries about / comments on independence of editorial content	2
Comments on situation in the newsrooms	1
b) Outside the remit of the Committee	88
Requests related to published content	1
Readers' feedback to editorial content	7
Non editorial requests	10
Commercial offers, advertising inquiries	14
Press releases; inquiries and offers to publish content in Economia titles	38
Incoherent or vulgar messages	11
Inquiries and messages without relevance to Economia	7
II. Submissions addressed to other people; the Committee copied	11
Of which alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Total number of submissions	102

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 find any case of interference with the freedom of Economia newsrooms to take individual editorial decisions. On top of their duties, the Committee members recommended that the Board of Directors ensure strengthened editorial oversight in connection with personnel changes in the Aktualne.cz newsroom.

5. ADVOCACY OF FREE MEDIA

During the period covered by this report, the Committee initiated the fourth year of the Media Freedom Poll, a survey of public attitudes towards media freedom in Czechia, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. The poll took place in the spring of 2025 with the support of the Bakala Foundation. A panel debate with journalists and experts from the Central European region on the survey findings, organized by the Committee in cooperation with the daily SME, took place in Bratislava on 12 May 2025. The survey showed widespread public support for transparent and effective regulation of social media to protect freedom of expression and democratic integrity.



On 20 May 2025, the Committee published a statement of solidarity with independent media and civil society in Hungary, in reaction to the “transparency” bill introduced on 13 May 2025 by Hungary’s ruling party Fidesz. The Committee members expressed full support for a statement signed by a number of editors-in-chief of European media.

6. CONCLUSION

In the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025, 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 editorial content of the titles published by the media house Economia being affected by inappropriate interference from the shareholder. The Committee has actively contributed to the public discourse on media freedom and digital regulation and spoke out in support of independent media in Hungary.

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 2 October 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing 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 2 October 2025 and is issued in Czech and English language versions.