

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE**

of the company Economia, a.s.

for the period from 1 September 2025 to 20 June 2026

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 2025 to 20 June 2026:

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 within the scope of its authority, 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 2025, the Committee was composed as follows:

Name	Position	Period
Tessa Szyszkowitz	Chairperson of the Committee	1 Sept. 2025 – to date
Alexandra Borchardt	Member of the Committee	1 Sept. 2025 – to date
Aleksander Kaczorowski	Member of the Committee	1 Sept. – 21 Sept. 2025
Václav Štětka	Member of the Committee	1 Sept. – 21 Sept. 2025; 20 Oct. 2025 – to date

Honorary members of the Committee are Misha Glenny and, from 2 October 2025, Aleksander Kaczorowski.

This report is prepared for a period of less than one year in view of the upcoming change in the composition of the Committee. The term of office of the Chairperson Tessa Szyszkowitz will end on 1 July 2026. The terms of office of the Committee members Alexandra Borchardt and Václav Štětka will end on 30 June 2026.

3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

During the period covered by this report, one Committee meeting was held, on 2 October 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 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 2025 to 20 June 2026, a total of 60 submissions or other messages were received, of which 59 to the email address rada@economia.cz and 1 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	55
a) Relating to the areas of competence of the Committee	0
Alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Inquiries about / comments on independence of editorial content	0
Comments on situation in the newsrooms	0
b) Outside the remit of the Committee	55
Requests related to published content	2
Readers' feedback to editorial content	5
Non editorial requests	4
Commercial offers, advertising inquiries	15
Press releases; inquiries and offers to publish content in Economia titles	17
Incoherent or vulgar messages	4
Inquiries and messages without relevance to Economia	8
II. Submissions addressed to other people; the Committee copied	5
Of which alleged interference in editorial content by the shareholder	0
Total number of submissions	60

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.

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Committee sought a successor to take over the role of initiator of the Media Freedom Poll, a survey of public attitudes towards media freedom in Czechia, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia. It remains prepared to provide assistance to new organizers, partners, and sponsors of the survey in order to facilitate a smooth transition of the project. The Committee is convinced that the Media Freedom Poll has made a valuable contribution to public debate on the state and perception of media freedom in Central and Eastern Europe and is worth continuing.

Further, the Committee observed political changes in the region with potential impacts on media freedom, in particular the current Czech government's plan to overhaul the funding model for Czech public broadcasters, as well as the change in government in Hungary following the parliamentary elections in April. The Committee also noted the self-regulatory memorandum of Czech media associations and journalistic organizations, signed in January, as well as the January call by ten Czech editors-in-chief to the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, protesting against the selective denial of access to an official ministry press conference.

6. CONCLUSION

In the period for which this report is compiled, the Committee for Editorial Independence performed its activities and fulfilled its role in accordance with the Articles of Association of the company and the Committee charter. During this period, the Committee did not identify any case in which editorial content published by Economia was affected by inappropriate interference from the shareholder.

The Chairperson, members and honorary members of the Committee have collectively decided to resign.

This decision was not taken lightly and does not arise from any finding of inappropriate interference by the shareholder in the editorial content of Economia's publications. However, during the Committee's final term, its members became increasingly concerned about standards of quality journalism in some of Economia's outlets. These concerns were communicated to the management of Economia.

The Committee's collective resignation reflects its conviction that editorial independence requires not only protection from proprietorial interference, but also a sustained institutional commitment to the highest standards of journalism, editorial integrity and media freedom.

Throughout its existence, the Committee sought to contribute to broader debates on media freedom in the Czech Republic and Central and Eastern Europe, including through the Media Freedom Poll and cooperation with partners across the region. The Committee regrets that these activities will no longer continue under Economia's auspices and believes they represented a valuable contribution both to public debate and to Economia's standing as a publisher committed to independent journalism.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Economia's sole shareholder for establishing this body in 2019 and for creating an innovative governance mechanism dedicated to protecting editorial independence. It remains the Committee's conviction that a strong and genuinely independent Committee for Editorial Independence has an important role to play within a publishing house such as Economia and deserves the support necessary to contribute to the defence of free and independent journalism.

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 may also be published on the website free.economia.cz.

In London on 25th of June 2026



Tessa Szyszkowitz
Chairperson of the Committee for Editorial Independence

This report was approved by the Committee for Editorial Independence on 25th of June 2026 and is issued in Czech and English language versions.