

**Slovenia's additional input  
to European Commission's supplementary questions following the country visit**

**10. We understand that the dismissal of the former head of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), which acts as the specialized anti-corruption police, has been quashed in judicial review. What is the current situation on that dismissal procedure? What is the status of the new appointment procedure? What are the reasons for the modification/lowering of expertise requirements (simple “work experience” in current version, compared to “managerial experience” in previous call) for the director of the NBI?**

As for the decision of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia, which quashed the decision on the dismissal of the former director of the NBI Mr Darko Muženič and remitted it for fresh consideration, the Republic of Slovenia filed an appeal on a point of law with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia based on a motion for admissibility of such an appeal. The appeal concerns the question of whether it is admissible in the procedure of dismissal of director of the NBI to rely on Article 83, paragraph five, of the Public Administration Act given that Article 49 of the Organisation and Work of the Police Act provides the following guidance and reads as follows: “The Director of the National Bureau of Investigation shall be appointed and dismissed by the Director General of the Police. The procedure shall be subject to the provisions of the Act regulating the system of public employees on the appointment and dismissal of the director of a body within a ministry.” The Supreme Court is yet to reach a decision on the motion.

On Mr Darko Muženič’s proposal regarding his disputed transfer to another post, the Labour and Social Court of Ljubljana issued an injunction suspending/banning the selection of the most appropriate candidate; however, it did not stay the recruitment procedure.

According to the job classification, at least seven years of work experience is required for the director of the NBI. This requirement featured in all the calls for the appointment of the director of the NBI. The selection criteria in this call are absolutely the same as in previous calls. As for the required managerial experience for posts in the public sector, this is explicitly required by the law only for the post of the director general of the police, in accordance with Article 47 of the Organisation and Work of the Police Act.

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**2. Could you elaborate on the situation of the media sector and journalists, in particular considering the COVID-19 situation? Where measures adopted to support the media sector and in particular journalists? [If available: Could you provide data on the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on advertising revenue of media.]**

In 2020 Ministry of culture provided 2.7 million of euros in form of state aid to ensure media pluralism and diversity of media content. In total 67 projects were supported submitted by the private media publishers and radio and television broadcasters. Approximately the same amount of funds will be allocated in the year 2021. According to our information this is not a common practice in the EU countries.

Self-employed journalist (registered freelance journalists) who are unable to work to due to the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic were (the measures are still in place) entitled to extraordinary assistance in the form of monthly basic income. The financial help was provided in the form of basic salary, including the social security payment (payment towards pension fund and disability insurance, health care insurance and other payment that constitute social security benefits). The Government financed 80 percent of the salaries of temporary laid-off workers, as well as their social and health security fees.

Public broadcasting service (PBS) institutional autonomy and editorial independency and its adequate funding is regulated by law (Zakon o Radioteleviziji Slovenija). Same status is guaranteed to the Slovenian press agency. During the COVID-19 crisis additional funding was provided by the government (approximately 2.2 million of euros in the year 2020) for public service operation of the PBS. The additional funding was provided for compensating of wages of the journalists (and other media workers) for their work in informing the citizens carried out under the special circumstances during the pandemic.

As regards the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on advertising revenue of media, the data shows a decline in the advertising revenue in 2020. According to Marketing Magazine (a Slovenian expert magazine targeting marketing professionals; 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2021; <https://www.marketingmagazin.si/vpogled/po-pricakovanjih-slabsa-oglosevalska-letina>) it is estimated that the decline is approximately 11 percent when compared to the year 2019. The data on advertising revenue for 2021 are not available yet. However, in our opinion the advertising revenue of media is in increase since companies have successfully shifted their business models to the online environment. Therefore, advertising is even more important than in the offline business models. We are convinced that advertising revenue of media in 2021, thanks to the effective recovery measures adopted by the government, will be the same as in pre-pandemic time if not higher.