



Ljubljana, 29th May

Dear Ms. Vera Jourova, European Commissioner

I would like to inform you of a severe breach of media independence currently taking place in Slovenia. On the morning of Tuesday, May 29, 2024, just 10 days before the European elections, the Slovenian police raided the offices of the opposition media outlet Nova24TV and the home of its director, Boris Tomašič, with a search warrant. During the raid, several computers and phones were confiscated, indicating a direct and severe attack on media independence.

I would also like to point out that Slovenia has a long history of such abuses of police and judicial powers. Years ago, the police raided the premises of the largest opposition party, attempting to seize a server containing the email archives of all party members.

The police raid on the opposition media is an unequivocal consequence of the unacceptable political activities of a parliamentary investigative commission, which is supposed to investigate suspicions of illegal political party financing. This commission was established and is predominantly led by the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Robert Golob with the sole intention of intimidating opposition media in Slovenia.

We want to draw your attention to the questionable events and statements revealing that the police raid on the opposition media is an unacceptable political retaliation. The former chair of this investigative commission and former member of the ruling party of Prime Minister Robert Golob, Mojca Šetinc Pašek, recently admitted on POP TV that the commission was established with the intent to prosecute opposition media.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Robert Golob has publicly stated several times that their main political aim is the so-called "depoliticization" of the public broadcaster Radiotelevizija Slovenija (RTV Slovenija). He emphasized that they would not hesitate to use any means to achieve this goal and would take action against opposition media. In an interview on the news program Odmevi on October 25, 2023, he told host Tanja Starič, "We have all committed to cleansing RTV of 'janšism,' and I know you understand exactly what that means."

One of the first tasks of Golob's government was to pass a controversial amendment to the RTV law aimed at replacing all individuals not ideologically aligned with the extreme left and the current government. In the name of depoliticization, which is actually complete politicization, they have removed the general director of RTV, the director of TV, the editor-in-chief of the news program, the domestic politics editor, the foreign politics editor, the daily news program editor, the web portal editor, and several news program hosts. Programs critical of the government's work have been canceled, and there are plans to cancel programs that expose the crimes of totalitarian regimes, especially communism.

Such statements and actions clearly indicate an intent to limit media freedom and influence the media landscape in favor of the ruling party.

The foundation of European democracy, as enshrined in the founding treaties, is the respect for the principles of media freedom and media plurality. The European Commission, during its mandate, has adopted the Media Freedom Act to strengthen and protect media freedom.

Unfortunately, the actions of the current government of Robert Golob, who is also a member of your political group Renew, are entirely contrary to the principles of the EU's rule of law and the Media Freedom Act. The events in Slovenia represent a blatant and unacceptable misuse of the police for political purposes, aiming to retaliate against critical opposition media. Such interference with media independence is contrary to EU values, particularly regarding the rule of law and democracy, which are based on free and pluralistic media.

Dear Commissioner Vera Jourova,

Given your previous interventions in Slovenia's internal affairs, we ask how you assess the state of the rule of law and media freedom in light of recent events in Slovenia.

In light of these facts and events, occurring at a sensitive time for the European Parliament elections, it is crucial for the European Commission to protect the freedom and plurality of the media in Slovenia, thereby upholding the constitutional order of the European Union and ensuring the proper conduct of the European Parliament elections.

Sincerely,

Dr. Milan Zver,
Member of the European Parliament