



To the attention of
Ms Sophia in't Veld
Chair of the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group

Brussels, 7 July 2022

Dear Ms Sophia in't Veld,

I would like to inform you about the worrying decision that the Slovenian government, composed of Gibanje Svoboda, S&D, and Levica (left and extreme left parties) adopted at the College of the Speaker of the National Assembly on 5 July 2022 in connection with the Slovenian national television - RTV Slovenia.

Although the government promised to depoliticize RTV Slovenia, it is doing the exact opposite. There is growing evidence that the government wants to completely politically subjugate the national Slovenian television - something that should be utterly unacceptable in a democratic European country. At the aforementioned college, the government coalition proposed that the amendments to the Act on RTV Slovenia should be adopted by the urgent legislative procedure.

This procedural precedent dangerously undermines the democratic foundations of legislative decision-making. The urgent legislative procedure is intended for the adoption of laws, which, if not enforced, would have "consequences regarding the functioning of the state that would be difficult to remedy". An urgent procedure is also envisaged when the adoption of the law is "required in the interests of the security or defence of the state, or in order to eliminate the consequences of natural disasters".

None of the proposed amendments to the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act is of such a nature that it would provide specifically grounded reasons for adopting a law by the urgent procedure.

The proposed Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act provides for a unified management and supervisory body - the Council of RTV Slovenia, replacing the Programme Board and Supervisory Board of RTV Slovenia, which are established under the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act currently in force. In accordance with the new amendments to the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act, the public institution would be lead and managed by a board consisting of four members, headed by the president of the board. The mandate of the members of the current Programme Council and the members of the Supervisory Board, the mandate of the committees linked to them, and the mandate of the General Director, Radio Director and Television Director would thus end on the date this law entry into force.

With the mentioned amendments to the RTV Slovenia Act, proposed by the ruling coalition, the government intends to replace the most important directors of the public RTV Slovenia with political subordinates, and at the same time, it wants to fundamentally change the functioning of the public service.

It is unfortunate that, in these uncertain times, when all over Europe we are faced with high energy and food prices, high inflation and an increase in Covid-19 infections, the primary concern of Slovenian government is how to subjugate the public Radio and Television, which should operate in the interest of all citizens.

Considering all of the above, the time has certainly come for a Special Mission of the European Parliament to go to Slovenia and check the state of the rule of law and media freedom.

Yours sincerely,
Milan Zver, MEP