

## In This Issue You Can Read About:

- **The Erotel Case: Will SFOR Put Out Erotel?**
- **Independent Media Commission (IMC): Scope of the Broadcasting Code of Practise**
- **Monitoring: From Little Details to Ignorance**
- **Ethics and Culture of Communication (6): Journalist Ethics – European Experiences**
- **The Internet and Journalism (5): Searching for Necessary Information**
- **News**

# Media News

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## The Erotel Case

### Will SFOR Put Out Erotel?

The Independent Media Commission (IMC) on November 23 announced it had requested assistance from SFOR to enforce an order to the TV house Erotel to stop broadcasting. This news reminded many people of an event that took place three years ago when SFOR troops occupied Serb television transmitters for broadcasting inflammatory messages against the international community in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

However, the reason why IMC called in SFOR to help is of a different nature. On October 31 the Independent Media Commission offered Erotel a temporary broadcasting license which authorizes it to use 11 transmitters providing Erotel's area of coverage. The remaining transmitters, as well as frequencies that it was broadcasting on, were supposed to be handed in by Erotel to be used by federal television. Erotel did not accept this decision and refused the license. Following the refusal, IMC issued an order to this TV house on November 15 to immediately stop working. Erotel ignored the decision and continued to broadcast. In view that IMC is authorized to issue working licenses and to allocate and regulate frequencies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Erotel's broadcasting became illegal. As we found out at IMC, the Commission tried to "communicate" with Erotel on several occasions, but it was often ignored. As an ultimate solution with the aim of protecting legality in this field and maintaining IMC authority, the Commission requested assistance from the international troops tasked with keeping peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Practically, this means that SFOR, as the only international force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which effectively possesses force, is supposed to prevent Erotel from continuing to work. Senior SFOR officials upon receiving the request partly disassociated themselves by announcing that under the peace agreement only the High Representative (OHR) may authorize the use of international troops. However, support from OHR arrived soon. We

found out from IMC spokesperson Zinaida Babovic that the High Representative has given the green light for action, which means that everything is now in the hands of Erotel and SFOR. "Our position is totally clear. Erotel must comply with IMC requirements. There will be no further negotiations on this mater. Even if they were to accept the working license that they had earlier refused, they would still have to comply with our latest decision, which means to stop broadcasting," Babovic said.

Erotel the same day that IMC announced it had requested SFOR assistance issued a statement saying it accepts the broadcasting license on only one frequency, but on the condition that this TV house is allowed to cover with signal all Croat-inhabited parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, we found out from IMC that this position has not been delivered to IMC by Erotel and that it was only an informal press statement. "Even if we had received such a statement, it would not have not changed our position which is clear – first our requirements must be complied with, and only after that may negotiations be held", the IMC spokesperson told us.

Although both IMC and OHR emphasize in their statements that Erotel must immediately comply with the decisions, negotiations are ongoing in Mostar between a delegation of Croat politicians and Erotel editors on one side, and OHR representatives on the other, on a peaceful settlement to the problem. OHR delegation head Simon Haselock said in a press statement that positions are distant but that he still hopes for a satisfactory solution. Zoran Tomic, spokesman for the ruling HDZ party, had a similar opinion: "There are difficulties, but also chances for a peaceful resolution to the problem," he said during a break in negotiations.

The Erotel editorial board considers the IMC move to be illegal and anti-Croat. Erotel sees itself as the Bosnian Croat TV network and maintains that existence of such a station is totally legal and that it should professionally inform its viewers, but that it should put emphasis on Croat events in Bosnia-Herzegovina which, according to most Croat politicians and journalists, are neglected in Bosniak-majority media. The Office of the High Representative (OHR) has taken Croat objections into account earlier. The position was taken that RTV BiH must be transformed for the most part into a federal television, which will truly represent the interests of both Bosniaks and Croats in the BiH Federation, and for a smaller part into a Public Service for the whole Bosnia-Herzegovina. The process of implementing this decision is underway. However, it has been slowed down by political disagreements and obstruction from both sides. The gist of the problem of creating a joint medium is political. Croats want a lot of independence in creating program, while Bosniaks insist on the contrary, requesting a single media space. Croat politicians maintain that such insistence is motivated by the Bosniak desire for dominance, while Bosniak ones maintain that it is another form of Croat separatism.

However, a problem that is much more important than these political differences is direct broadcasting of Croatian state television (HRT) program via Erotel transmitters. The OHR's



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position is that broadcasting of one state's program via the ground network in another must be resolved by special agreement. Another obstacle to free program broadcasting is violation of copyrights because HRT programming contains many movies and sports broadcasts that are paid for only for Croatia, but are also being shown in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

When and how SFOR will act is hard to guess at the moment when this article is written. However, the issue is politically very sensitive. Erotel's closure would mean that Croats are left without their own national TV network. Federal television, which should be also truly Croat, as things stand now, has not been formed yet, and its experimental program on channel 2 broadcasts only football matches and movies. It is clear, regardless of whether SFOR takes action or not, that a period of active (and difficult) negotiations is ahead between the two political sides in the Federation as well as the international community and, finally, also journalists who will in the end have to create quality program that the population will want to watch and pay subscription for. Because this is an exclusively political issue which only has a media wrapping.

(R. U.)

## **I n d e p e n d e n t M e d i a C o m m i s s i o n ( I M C )**

### **Scope of the Broadcasting Code of Practise**

An extensive assessment of Independent Media Commission (IMC) decisions directly related to implementation of the Code of Decency and Civility for RTV program was recently presented to part of the public. This material encompasses the period from August last year to October this year.

Let us recall that IMC's primary task is to support development of free, professional, plural and sustainable media, which includes the right to free expression and right of the public to be informed. These principles, which are in line with the highest world professional media standards, are often overshadowed by IMC's regulatory function, primarily in the sphere of issuing licenses and regulating the frequency spectrum.

It is also necessary to recall that regulatory agencies from the field of radio-diffusion exist everywhere in the world, and therefore also in Bosnia-Herzegovina. IMC has a specific status and position due to the specific state and legal status of the post-Dayton Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The foundation of the complex and responsible work of IMC is the Code of Decency and Civility, which has been in effect as of August 1 last year, and which was amended on June 9 and September 8 this year in two segments: (1) obligation to keep RTV material (the time was cut from one month to 14 days), and (2) ban on political advertising for public RTV stations.

In the past period the Code has turned out to be an efficient mechanism for building a stable media climate and environment in general, in particular in the field of curbing and preventing inflammatory and mongering language in RTV stations' programs. Of course, no one had the illusion that everything would go smoothly and without problems.

In the past period the IMC Monitoring and Complaints Department officially reviewed 224 complaints, of which 104 were filed *ex officio*. Eighty complaints were lodged by RTV stations, 18 by international organizations, while 14 arrived from other sources, including political parties and government offices.

Of the 224 received and reviewed complaints, the first instance body, Monitoring and Complaints Department, 107 were submitted to other departments. These complaints usually referred to frequency disturbances and the issue of license allocation. In 68 cases the Monitoring and Complaints Department concluded that further action was unnecessary because the Code of Decency and Civility had not been violated, or the complainant had not provided enough valid proof to justify the complaint. At the time this material was presented (mid-November), nine complaints were left to be reviewed. The remaining 40 were submitted to be decided to the Director General or Enforcement Panel. In several cases multiple complaints were encompassed

in one decision if one RTV station was in question. In summary, the Director General and the Enforcement Panel passed a total of 46 decisions related either to program content, license allocation or frequency spectrum disturbances.

In the structure of violations of the Code, the content component is in first place: a total of 22 violations or almost 50 percent, followed by omission to keep program recordings: 12 violations, or close to one fourth of cases; seven cases referred to the field of licenses, while the remaining cases were diverse in character, such as for example failure to pay a fine, and so on.

By RTV stations, the most undisciplined is Kanal S (seven cases), followed by Erotel (five cases), after which come RTV Sveti Georgije and Croat Radio Station Mostar with four cases each, Radio Postaja Drvar and SRT with three each, RTVBiH and NRTV 99 with two each, and so on.

By entity, 10 RTV stations are from the Republika Srpska and 13 from the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, of which seven from the Bosniak part and six from the Croat part of the Federation.

Concerning the content component, IMC most often referred to Article 1.1. General, which speaks in two paragraphs about programs that may inspire ethnic or religious hatred and cause unrest and violence. The stations that excelled in this negative sense are RTV Sveti Georgije, Radio Station Drvar, Kanal S, and Croat Radio Station Mostar. Among the mentioned stations, with regards to violation of the Code, incriminating content was also seen under Article 1.2 Decency and Civility, Article 1.3. Religion, and Article 1.4 Fair and Impartial Program Editing. There have been cases of one broadcast violating several articles of the Code of Decency and Civility.

In order to make it easier for RTV stations to abide by the Code, IMC has developed guidelines on, as an illustration, accurate and balanced reporting, provocative statements, and equitable access to media in the election period.

## **M o n i t o r i n g**

### **From Little Details to Ignorance**

*(How Media Reported on the BiH Presidency Visit to the Security Council)*

On the occasion of marking the fourth anniversary of the Dayton Agreement, which established peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United Nations Security Council on November 15 organized a special session on problems in this country. For the first time all three members of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina acted together in the session and in their speeches emphasized the successes and failures in the peace agreement's implementation. On that occasion a joint New York Declaration was signed in which the Presidency expressed full commitment to establishing Bosnia-Herzegovina as a state.

Media Plan Monitoring Center monitored reports in Bosnian-Herzegovinian daily press and primetime news programs on TV networks on this event, with the intention of seeing how media reported on the joint stand of the collective head of state. It was noticeable that media in the Republika Srpska limited themselves to presenting the New York Declaration, while federal media put emphasis on the establishment of a state border service envisioned by the Declaration and on the speeches delivered by the two Presidency members from the Federation. Neither commented on the event, not even a day after the Council session (November 16), but stuck to pure reporting and news agency items.

## Forgotten Radisic

*Dnevni avaz* on November 16 dedicated almost the entire front page to the joint stand of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Presidency in New York. It featured a striking large headline – “Border service by end of year,” underneath which it stressed that Jelavic, Radisic and Izetbegovic reiterated their commitment to the Dayton Agreement during the Security Council session. There was also a large photograph of the Presidency members shaking each other’s hands warmly.

Right on the second page the paper featured an extensive report from the *Avaz* New York correspondent Sead Numanovic. Most space was given to the speeches given by the three Presidency members to the Security Council. On the next page the paper published an integral translation of the New York Declaration, which precisely specifies the duties and time limits for accomplishing them on the part of the common institutions to enable better functioning of the state.

*Oslobodjenje* and *Vecernje novine* dedicated most of their front pages to other events, and presented the Presidency members’ visit only through smaller headlines. It is hard to assess what kind of editorial concept was in question, but the fact is that *Oslobodjenje* on the main part of its front page featured a housing scandal in Tuzla and Bill Clinton’s visit to Turkey, and whereas *Vecernje novine* wrote that drinking water in Zenica is “flowing through cancerous pipelines.”

However, inside the paper *Oslobodjenje* dedicated the entire second and third pages to the Presidency visit to New York. It was noticeable that the paper, which traditionally used to have good “New York connections,” now did not have its own correspondent, but carried Ante Jelavic’s and Alija Izetbegovic’s speeches from BH PRESS, which extensively and correctly presented the two Presidency members’ addresses. *Oslobodjenje* did not note the speech by Serb member Zivko Radisic. On the following page, again via BH PRESS, it reported on the New York Declaration, particularly emphasizing the section related to the establishment of the border service of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

*Vecernje novine* also did not note Zivko Radisic’s address. Page five, which was entirely dedicated to the Security Council visit, consisted of five smaller articles. However, it remains unclear who was their author. Only one article (statement by Richard Holbrooke) was signed by BH PRESS. Perhaps the signature referred to the whole page?

The newspaper *Slobodna BiH* paid almost no attention to the BiH Presidency visit to the Security Council. On the last page it only featured a small item by the news agency HINA that the Presidency members spoke together in New York, but that the details were unknown because the session was closed to the public (!).

In the Republika Srpska the three Presidency members’ visit to New York provoked much less media attention. *Nezavisne novine* on November 16 did not write a single word about this event. The next day, in its review edition, although it gave significant space to the fourth anniversary of the Dayton Agreement, it did not have a report from New York. *Glas srpski*, on the other hand, on November 16 did not have a report but the next day it gave a lot of coverage to this event. On the first page it featured a picture of the Presidency members in the Security Council and a SRNA news agency report from New York with the headline “Commitment to Dayton reaffirmed.” This article is more or less the paraphrased New York Declaration. The Presidency members’ speeches were not mentioned even in the inside pages, where we only noticed statements by Richard Holbrooke and Zivko Radisic given on the sidelines the Security Council session.

## Advisors – Media Stars

All TV networks in Bosnia-Herzegovina announced the Presidency’s visit to the Security Council the same day the event occurred (November 15) in the standard time in their primetime

news programs. TV BiH was the most extensive, giving this event as much as 12 minutes at the start of the news program *Journal*. The program moderator characterized the signed New York Declaration as “more progress on the path of the consistent agreement established four years ago in the United States.” This was followed by extensive reporting on the principles of the established border service and short paraphrasing of the most important conclusions of the Declaration. The station aired a report by its New York correspondent Envera Selimovic, who concisely and professionally informed viewers about the BiH Presidency visit, emphasizing that all members “spoke in a reconciliatory tone.” After this, viewers were presented only parts of the Bosniak member Izetbegovic’s address, as well as a telephone interview with his advisor Hajric, who was also in New York.

*Journal I* on TV Herceg Bosna which is broadcast on Erotel started the news program with information that the BiH Presidency was visiting the Security Council, which Chairman Ante Jelavic had already addressed. This information was followed by a telephone report by Jelavic’s advisor Begic, who said that Jelavic was addressing the Council that very moment. He said Jelavic have a positive assessment of the implementation of the Dayton Agreement, and he quoted details from the Declaration. In the end, the program moderator announced more information in the next program.

TV Republika Srpska at the beginning of the *Journal* presented almost the entire content of the Declaration, accompanying the report with footage showing the Security Council session. The Presidency members’ speeches were not presented.

OBN, on the other hand, paid least attention to this event, focusing most of its attention on the border service and presenting an extensive news agency item on its future establishment.

Without explanations from the editors-in-chief themselves, it is hard to conclude why Bosnian-Herzegovinian media reports from New York were so unbalanced and incomplete. We can only guess that most of them do not have their own correspondents or occasional stringers accredited in the United Nations, that they do not know how to find sources from “closed sessions,” and that they allowed politicians and their spokesmen and advisors to do the work of journalists. The latter did the job the best way they knew how and the way they wanted to.

(R. U.)

## E t h i c s   a n d   C u l t u r e   o f   C o m m u n i c a t i o n   ( 6 )

*Media News* continues to publish articles on ethics and culture of communication written by well-known authors, as well as experts who are familiar with the media situation in countries in transition and southeast Europe. In this issue we publish the first part of the article “Journalist Ethics – European Experiences” written by Dr. Miroljub Radojkovic, full professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade and member of the Media Plan Institute Council. The text was originally published in the journalist guidebook “Ethic Codes for Print and Electronic Media” (published by Independent Association of Journalists of Serbia, Belgrade, 1999).

### **Journalist Ethics – European Experiences (1)**

#### **The Principle of Self-Regulation and the Role of the State**

Great significance is attached to journalist ethics in the world today, in particular in Europe, because most contemporary democracies have accepted the theory of social responsibility of media. In short, this approach was founded after World War II when it was shown in deed what media and their propaganda can do to people and what damage they can make. Hence, a fateful question was raised for democratic order and liberal doctrine regarding freedom of the press: **How to curb the power of media?** A two-year discussion of journalists, experts and politicians

was first held in the United States in the Press Freedom Commission, which completed its work in 1948. Its most important conclusion was that limits of media freedom must be recognized and drawn.

However, the most important question is: **Who defines these limits?**

Since the theory of social responsibility of media is founded on the liberal spirit, the state was not taken into account in trying to come up with the answer. The basic idea was that bearers of public word should voluntarily limit, or self-limit, themselves. We deliberately say “bearers of public word” because, as we shall see, it does not have to be only journalists. They are joined by media owners, and in some European cases also by the state. **The idea of self-limiting means only minimal intervention on the part of the authorities, only in extreme cases with regard to the most vital parts of public interest and welfare. Bearers of public word should independently pass and voluntarily abide by the norms they adopt, in order to respect the following principle: those who use the right to public communication to a bigger extent and more easily, should proportionately have bigger responsibility for what they do, or do not do in their community.**

**It is clear that the nature of ethic norm in journalist codes and the principle of self-regulation, i.e. voluntarism, excludes state intervention. It is usually considered that state protection is welcome in case of other human rights and freedoms. For example, that it is obliged to guarantee the right to property, to life, to minimum living conditions, and so on, but when it comes to communication, the logic is opposite. It has been claimed and tried to be proven for centuries that it is desirable for the state not to intervene and not to guarantee the right to communication. There is justified fear that any state measures derogate this right.**

Second, as European experience shows, journalist codes of ethics are older and more detailed in the field of press. Now they exist also for electronic media. This is a consequence of the fact that press since its establishment has been in private hands, and was therefore constitutionally protected and respected by the state. On the other hand, RTV systems in Europe were nationalized after they appeared after which, until the eighties of this century, they survived as some sort of state monopoly. Today this monopoly is being abolished by a process of deregulation. That is why if the state has any say in the passing of journalist ethic codes, it may do so for national RTV networks which have the status of public services. Through its representatives in management bodies and control over public corporations it may take part in creating the internal news and editing rules of work.

Third, **the state in Europe has indirectly helped journalist ethics by supporting the creation of certain bodies, which we do not have here. These bodies are called press councils. However, except for giving support and possibly initial material assistance, the state is not involved in the work of these bodies.** It has been this way in Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Portugal and in Cyprus.

Fourth, the state is involved in regulating the work of media and newspapers through legislative activities. Laws are supposed to encompass all those issues that journalist codes of ethics either do not cover, or cannot sanction. Some examples are the rights of the state, under international conventions, to stipulate introduction of censorship in case of war, state of emergency and major catastrophes. In addition, some states have interfered in the work of media due to the appearance of terrorism, and have passed laws that restricts freedom of reporting for members of terrorist organizations and groups (we find an example of such legal regulation in Great Britain, while an example of self-regulation is found in the fact that all large media in the United States have their own rules on terrorism). Some countries have legal provisions on the right to correction and reply to public information.

### **New Pan-European Standards**

Regarding the essence of the topic, self-regulation of media and journalists, a supra-national dimension appears in this venture. There is talk and thinking about passing principles, perhaps

even a code, that would be in effect for the whole European Union, or be adopted voluntarily by journalist associations and media in the countries that have entered the Council of Europe. A Declaration was passed during the IV Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy in Prague in 1994 (under the auspices of the Council of Europe). It says, among other things: "...everyone involved in journalism should be involved in an ethic and responsible manner, but taking care not to sacrifice neither their independence nor critical approach."

**Another proposal in circulation is to define basic, common principles of European journalism, on the basis of which a special code is to be passed. The establishment of a common media ombudsmen is proposed, who would operate under the auspices of the Council of Europe. This institution would define new significant standards for admission of other countries (including FRY) in this association.**

Following the first wave of interest in this matter after World War II, a second one is taking place. It is more noticeable in Europe this time, and therefore even more important for us. Why is this happening? Because some new phenomena have been spotted in the work of media to which European nations are preparing an answer.

First of all, there is an **expansion of sensationalism** in press and RTV. It appeared with the strengthening of private property in media and market-driven rules of work. Sensationalism is used to gain profit, and that aspect is well known to us here. Thus, the idea is to prevent it through voluntary self-limitation of media and journalists – using ethical norms. Another negative phenomenon is **concentration and overlapping of ownership** of media. This is a painful issue in Europe and in many Codes journalists are called upon to fight against concentration. Then, there are changes introduced in the work of media by **new technologies**. Many media are entering computer networks (on-line). This not only facilitates access for citizens, but also for media and journalists to competitor "products." Technology threatens to completely undermine the copyright concept and to make protection of intellectual property, despite regulations which guarantee it, useless. The forth and most important reason for the appearance of Pan-European initiatives is the **loss of public trust** in media. It is maintained that journalist ethics should increase the degree of media and journalist responsibility towards citizens. **(To be continued in the next issue).**

## The Internet and Journalism (5)

### Searching for Necessary Information

On the Internet there is information about everything and for everyone. However, most of that information is unreliable or one-sided. Another problem that is no less is that there is unnecessary information on a certain issue. We can never know whether we will get some information immediately or look for it for months by searching through unnecessary information offered by the search engine.

Today the Internet is used by all age and interest groups of people. However, it is most needed by journalists and businessmen. They are so much in need of accurate and fast information. Some theoreticians point to the inevitable establishment of service organizations which would assess information reliability and impartiality. However, this is in contradiction with the general development trend of the Internet as a free medium. Therefore, the only hope left are information experts and creation of awareness that information is a commodity that should be paid for. But...to whom? Who are the information brokers? This article will say something about them because a good and reliable information broker is so important for journalists, in particular for those dealing with investigative journalism.

## **What is an Information Broker?**

Changes in private and public information services are evident. However, Europe only recently, in 1996, launched a project of researching information sale activities. The information sale activity research project started in 1990 on the initiative of businessmen from the Nordic Council for Scientific Information. The project was headed by Prof. Irene Wormell, who published the research data in the book *Success Factors for Fee-Based Information Services*, Helsinki, 1996.

The project in 1993 hired advisors from Great Britain and Sweden. Preliminary research showed that most of the existing independent information experts were insufficiently familiar with marketing. Their information service sale generally did not generate profit, but presented infrastructural support to science, regional development or development of certain institutions, and they only collected interest. In view that the concept of charging a fee for information services is new in Europe, and was first encountered in practice in the 60s, a detailed approach was made as to specify the people who deal with it. In order to show the real state of information brokerage in Great Britain, central Europe and the Nordic countries, surveys and personal interviews were conducted. A general picture was created on the state of this activity and way of work of private information brokers.

There are three groups of information brokers. They are:

- Independent information brokers who make most of their income through sale of information services. They do not have a common name. The usual names used are: information advisors, information brokers, free librarians, independent information advisors, or information specialists.
- Services offered in organizations or institutions are charged for, and services can be offered within non-profit institutions. These are usually large national and university libraries.
- Services in the private sector which rely on primary work in information technologies (publishing, journalism, marketing and so on).

## **Price of Information Services**

While for the private sector profit is the main success factor, for the public sector (such as large national and university libraries) it is to improve their reputation and the image of the institution, and to make work easier for other library sections. Public institutions work on: gathering business information, researching literature and data bases, selective dissemination of information, advisory services.

The main characteristic of interest of the independent information broker is work on collecting one or more kinds of information and creating information combinations. Information brokers often specialize in certain areas: business information, health information, science information, media information, etc.

The basic factors for successful work of the information broker are: extensive knowledge of a large number of information sources, information search skills, scientific skills, services intended for a large number of users, and being able to accommodate requests.

Prof. Irene Wormell in her book describes how information service fees are determined, as well as some typical kinds of work carried out by the information broker.

In order to determine the real price of the information broker's fee, we proceed from the actual business costs. These are material costs such as subscription to commercial data bases, costs of data base searches, ordering documents and similar costs, as well as wages for employees together with taxes and contributions. To the price obtained in this way we add at least 30 percent, which is the business profit. For example, for a job in which the material costs of the ordered information search project amount to 500 pounds, and for which 20 hours of work are required, the cost would be calculated in the following way: 20 hours times 50 pounds

(wage) + 500 pounds (material costs) + 450 pounds (profit) = 1,950 pounds. Hence, the information broker will send the user a bill amounting to 2,000 pounds or around 6,000 DEM.

The author also describes some jobs carried out by information brokers, which show how important their services are for any work, even for journalism. For example:


- A banker from Spain wants to invest in Great Britain, he has selected a company, and has received from an information broker from Great Britain all publicly available documents and information on the company. However, the banker wants the broker to inform him about his personal observations in the company, to make a report on the atmosphere at work, work morale, people and how they communicate.
- A company from Denmark wants certain documents from Israel, but no one speaks Hebrew or is acquainted with how Israeli documents can be delivered from the United States, so it hires an information broker in Denmark to obtain the requested documents.
- A firm from Australia has a client who wants to export his products into European countries. Since sources on how to do business with certain European countries are not satisfactorily available in Australia, the Australian company hires a European information broker.

Information brokering, like any other business, is subject to ethical and legal principles of work. In view of the trend of Bosnia-Herzegovina opening to the world and foreign investors' expectations, it is obvious that information brokers will be a very demanded kind of experts. That is why particular attention should be given to educating them. For, from the above presented calculation it is clear that foreign investors need information and are ready to pay for it. At the same time, in descriptions of some typical examples of jobs carried out by information brokers we notice words such as publicly available documents, which indicates an urgency in creating a global information infrastructure; a state information and documentation referral agency and electronic libraries.

(M.S. Marija Putica, University of Mostar Journalism Studies)

## E y e o f t h e M o n i t o r

### Waste of Time and Space

 *Oslobodjenje* in the issue of November 17 on page 12 published an article by its Slovenia correspondent D. Svarc under the headline "How can a man from Foca go to Srbinje," which speaks about Bosnian-Herzegovinian refugees in Slovenia. Only five days later, on November 22, in the same newspaper, on page 17, an identical text was published, even with the same headline.

A similar thing happened again to this paper on November 21. Namely, on November 20 in the supplement *Auto World* the paper featured an article called "Volkswagen's unconscious auto-goal." The following day, the same article by the same author only changed insignificantly was put in another context and published on page seven under the headline "Possible assembly of 'Fabia' in Vogosca." This was basically a presentation of Skoda's new car both times.

Are these editorial mistakes, or lack of care for expensive newspaper space?

Editors in world-format papers everyday argue with their bosses trying to get a few lines more than they are given. If a TV or radio editor breaches the planned time for a program, he or she is severely punished or perhaps even fired. Editors and moderators of local TV and radio stations in this region, however, waste program time as if they had nothing better to do. For example, one minute of air time on pre-war Radio Sarajevo cost 8.5 German marks, and TV program 21.60 marks.

Where are the many hours of program time going with static telops, empty talk and music patches?

## Disintegration of Bosniak Television

The editor-in-chief of Bosniak Television (BRT), Mithat Paravlic, on November 17 with security backing from a private detective agency broke into the premises of the newly-formed RTV “Alfa” with the intention of confiscating this TV house’s equipment. After the situation heated up, police interfered and ordered Paravlic and his private security to leave.

RTV “Alfa” is the legal successor to the former Radio Hayat, which ceased to exist with its merger of TV Ljiljan and creation of Bosniak Television early this year. The first BRT editor-in-chief was Mahir Zisko, former director of Radio Hayat. However, last month the BRT Board dismissed Zisko from the post and appointed Mithat Paravlic editor-in-chief. The unsatisfied Zisko with some of the employees left BRT and soon founded a new RTV station – “Alfa.”

Paravlic maintains that Zisko illegally took away some RTV equipment belonging to BRT, while Zisko claims it is former Radio Hayat equipment. Ownership will probably have to be proven in court.

## Vlasic Transmitter Reconstructed

The antenna system of RTV transmitters on Mt. Vlasic was recently reconstructed and handed over to RTV BiH to be used.

Technical program transmission will have better quality and transmission continuity, said the assistant director general for equipment Miroslav Mocinic, underlining that the transmitter covers two thirds of the total of 60 or so repeaters across Bosnia-Herzegovina. Its range in visibility areas is 100 km, which means that RTV BiH program can be watched even in the area of Slavonia, Croatia. The transmitter is currently working with old equipment, with which it achieves 50 to 80 percent of planned power. The RTV BiH management has announced that they are planning to procure new equipment, but another 1.2 million marks needs to be provided.

Based on a contract with RTV BiH, the Vlasic pole and part of the antenna system is also to be used by OBN television with adequate compensation.

## New Media

### Studio 88

A new, sixth radio station started broadcasting in Mostar – Radio Studio 88. The station is a result of work of a group of young people of different nationality from both parts of Mostar. Experimental program on the 88 megahertz frequency started on July 14 this year, and all-day program was launched November 1. Studio 88 has received support from USAID as the station, according to the organization’s Acting Director Patrick Robert Jakobson, will play an important role in the democratic process of creating a united Mostar.

## *Balkan*

The first issue of *Balkan* magazine was promoted on November 23 at the Sarajevo Law Center. The publication, which is supposed to be published once in six months, features current issues from the fields of human rights, economy, culture and politics in the Balkans. Its publisher is Cultural Center Wien – Austria. The magazine is aimed at stimulating dialog in southern Europe and future cooperation among countries in the region.

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## **On the Threshold of a New Century**

 Listen with your ears!  Look with your eyes!  Think with your head!

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