

III MONITORING OF THE PROCESS OF ADOPTION OF NEW LAWS

On July 26, the Serbian Parliament adopted the new Law on Ministries, which provides for a different allocation of competences for certain matters relevant for the media sector within the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The competences in the last year of the unified Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society have now been divided between the Ministry for Culture and Media on one hand and the Ministry of Foreign and Domestic Trade and Telecommunications on the other. Hence, the Ministry for Culture and Media will be in charge of the public information system; oversight of the enforcement of the Law in the field of public information; oversight of the work of public companies and institutions in the field of public information; supervision of the activities of foreign information institutions, foreign means of public information, foreign media offices and correspondents in the Republic of Serbia; information for ethnic minorities; registration of foreign information institutions and the provision of assistance in work to foreign journalists and correspondents. The Ministry of Foreign and Domestic Trade and Telecommunications will be in charge of electronic communications and especially for laying down the draft plan of the designated purpose of radio frequency bands and passing the radio frequency allocation plan; passing decisions about the requirements for the issuance of individual licenses for the use of radio frequencies, as well as for the policy and strategy for the development of information society; data protection and information security.

It remains to be seen how these rearranged competences will affect the efficiency and quality of the administration. However, one gets the impression (comparing to the previous reorganization of the ministries in 2011) that the new ruling majority, just like the previous government, is primarily concerned with forming a government with as few ministries as possible, to leave the impression it is committed to making savings, rather than the real goal being to genuinely reform the state administration.