

VII CONCLUSION

The Serbian media scene is still waiting for the long-promised reforms in the media sector. Meanwhile, Molotov cocktails and explosive devices are thrown at the homes of newspaper directors and journalists, while at least 15% of all license-holding stations are on the verge of extinction, due to poverty and inability to pay the regulatory fees. The crisis and the unregulated relations in the media sector have (after affecting many local and regional media) led to the shutdown of a national television station, *TV Avala*. A few months ago, we wrote that, if the new government continued with its slow adjustments, there would perhaps be no media (electronic media at least) to deal with at all, once it finally decided to do something about the long-promised media reforms. Today, we can rectify that by saying that the Government did decide to engage in media reforms, but its commitment remains, for the time being, merely declarative and verbal, since all has remained unchanged at the practical level. While insisting that the state is withdrawing from media ownership, the Government, as the management of “Politika” (another media where the Government is one of the owners), says it is “discussing future relations in that company with the new private co-owner of “Politika”. These future relations have merely been about (in the case of “Politika” at least) private co-owners becoming “silent partners”, which do not participate in managing the company, leaving to the state the possibility to exercise unrestrained influence over the media where it is not the sole owner. Such developments are all but promising, in spite of the assurances of the new government to the contrary.