

IV MONITORING OF THE WORK OF REGULATORY BODIES, STATE AUTHORITIES AND COLLECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS

REGULATORY BODIES

1. Republic Broadcasting Agency

We have elaborated on the activities of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RBA) in the part of this Report concerning the implementation of the Broadcasting Law.

STATE AUTHORITIES

2. Ministry of Culture and Information

In early November 2013, Belgrade hosted the International Ministerial Conference “Freedom of Expression and Democracy in the Digital Age – Opportunities, Rights, Responsibilities”, organized by the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Culture and Information. The conference of ministers in charge of media and information society from CE member countries was inaugurated by the Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic and the Secretary-General of the CE Torbjorn Jagland, while the Chairman was the Minister of Culture and Information Ivan Tasovac. The panelists included the CE High Representative for Human Rights Niels Muiznieks, Special Rapporteur for the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Expression of the United Nations Franck la Rue, the representative of the OSCE Dunja Mijatovic and Secretary General of the European Broadcasting Union Igrind Deltén la Rue.

The ministerial conference also gathered many media experts, journalists, representatives of the state and international organizations. The topics on the two-panel discussions (the ministerial panel and the panel of media representatives) pertained to the challenges for freedom of expression on the Internet, especially in the context of rising hate speech online, ever increasing attacks on journalists, as well as to whistleblower protection. One of the speakers was Veran Matic, the Chairman of the commission investigating the assassination of journalists, set up late last year by the Government of Serbia, tasked with shedding light on the murders of Dada Vujasinovic, Slavko Curuvija and Milan Pantic. He presented the work of the commission and

pointed to the need for comprehensive protection of journalists, since the attacks of them are entirely motivated by their affiliation to the journalist occupation. The same panel included a presentation about freedom of expression in Turkey, especially in the context of online texts (blogs, forums and the like), in relation to the civil protests in that country. On the panel dedicated to the protection of the right to freedom of expression online, the participants were the representatives of large companies (e.g. Google), the civil sector, Internet activists and country representatives. The discussion confirmed that freedom of expression and the right to privacy on the Internet were often threatened not only by states (in the form of interception of communications, for example), but also by corporations filtering content, while invoking the protection of legitimate interests. The discussion also showed that it was difficult to solve all open issues without a multisectoral approach, involving the participation of the state, civil society and the corporate sector.