

## VII CONCLUSION

In 2013, Serbia made a significant step forward in the EU accession process. Namely, on April 22, the European Commission gave the green light for the opening of the negotiations with Serbia. On June 28, at a meeting in Brussels, the European leaders decided to begin the negotiations no later than January 2014. The Screening process started on September 25. It was announced that the screening of the media-relevant Chapter 10 (Information Society and Media) would be held in May and July 2014. The EU ministers adopted on December 18 in Brussels the negotiating framework for Serbia, giving the green light for the start of the accession negotiations. At the EU Ministers' Council, it was decided that the first inter-governmental conference between the EU and Serbia would be held on January 21.

It remains to be seen to what extent the start of the accession negotiations will affect the media reforms in Serbia. However, we may already notice that a year ago, we ended our monitoring report for December 2012 with the good news about the accelerated legislative activity on regulations the adoption of which is prescribed by the Media Strategy. Unfortunately, a year later, not a single law from the set of new media laws that have been prepared for years has been adopted. Meanwhile, the Government was reshuffled, a new information minister and his assistant were appointed, and they are currently fighting against the still strong opposition to the necessary media reforms. On the other hand, we are witnessing the hard blows inflicted to freedom of expression in Serbia from various sides – physical attacks against journalists, threats, pressure on media to release or not to release certain news, with somewhat forgotten blatant censorship being increasingly mentioned as a fact of life in the media landscape. In such an environment, it seems that the enthusiasm of media professionals for the reforms has been waning, as if everyone is already tired of waiting. As if every hope and expectation is matched by even stronger reservations and caution.