



## **Prime Minister Janša Attempts to Discredit Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatovic's Report on Media Freedom in Slovenia – No. 110/2021**

<https://fom.coe.int/alerte/detail/101263588;globalSearch=false>)

Slovenia is a staunch defender of democratic principles and values and, in this respect, of the freedom and independence of the media and journalists. In Slovenia, the freedom of the media and, in particular, journalistic autonomy and editorial independence are specially protected by the Mass Media Act. Slovenia also defends the right to freedom of expression, which is particularly important for our country because of its not so distant history during the time of Yugoslavia, of which Slovenia was also part and which had a criminal offence called "verbal delict", and because, under the previous regime, journalistic and other publishing work was subject to strict censorship.

In this regard, it should be noted that this year the Minister of Culture, Dr Vasko Simoniti, discussed media freedom in Slovenia with the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Dunja Mijatović. The Minister gave the Commissioner a detailed presentation of the issues of the Slovenian media landscape. They touched on the legal dilemma of financing the STA and the proposed amendment to the media legislation and discussed general issues faced by the Slovenian media. The final report of the Council of Europe was written in such a way as though representatives of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia had not even provided their comments and explanations. The relevant ministry sent a letter of protest to the Commissioner for Human Rights, pointing out that the report contains some untruths and does not take into account the explanations provided by the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. No response has been received from the Commissioner.