

## **VII CONCLUSION**

In late June, Serbia received the “go-ahead” for the start of the EU accession talks. Next on the agenda is the analysis of the compliance of national regulations with those in Europe, as well as the opening of the first negotiation chapters. We already know that one of these chapters will be Chapter 24, concerning, among other things, human rights and freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression, which is fundamental for the media. Later the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter will come, dedicated to information society and the media. Even if we know, from the experience of neighboring Croatia, that the chapters on the right of competition and state aid control were more relevant for the media than Chapters 10 and 24, the significance of the imminent deliberations should not be underestimated. Nevertheless, we will be entering the negotiations with mixed feelings. While on one hand, there is tangible progress, such as the extremely important decision of the Constitutional Court we have commented on in this Report, there is also considerable delay in the implementation of the Media Strategy. The Serbian Ministry of Culture and Media has not been able to forward the Draft of the new Law on Public Information and Media (which underwent public debate) to the Government for approval and to Parliament for further proceedings for months. It is legitimate to ask what our politicians’ base their optimism on, on the eve of the negotiations with the EU, when it is an understatement to say that we have limited reform and regulatory capacities. One of the harmful consequences of these limited capacities is the ever-grimmer Serbian media scene.