

VII CONCLUSION

The month of September in the Serbian media scene has been surrealistically quiet. While the preceding months were marked by the government reshuffle and the wait for the new minister, September ultimately saw the new minister appointed and nothing else. The new minister, Ivan Tasovac, announced that one of the priorities of his ministry would be legislative transparency. This should practically mean the dismissal of the Assistant Minister Dragan Kolarevic, perceived in public as the person responsible for the “lack of transparency in passing laws”, the new minister has branded unacceptable. However, although Tasovac was appointed in early September, Kolarevic remained on his position until the end of the month. At that, Kolarevic’s dismissal was not the only development that did not happen in September, although it was the logical thing to expect. We have not seen the new Plan for the Allocation of Radio Frequencies either, which was supposed to reassign the frequencies (left vacant after the shutting down of TV Avala and the failure of the tender for an additional national coverage broadcasting licenses) for the expansion of the digital network for the simulcast. In a month of waiting for things that have not happened, the only good news to report about herein is the verdict of the Appellate Court in Novi Sad in the case of Todor Bukinac, the owner of the “Bukinac” horse farm, against Radio 021, RDP B92, Ringier Axel Springer and the Beta News Agency and its editors. A Serbian court of law has finally recognized and confirmed that a journalist is entitled to make a mistake and not every mistake *per se* constitutes grounds for damages. This is a great step for Serbian journalism and for the Serbian judiciary. There is no freedom of media and freedom of expression if there is no freedom from fear. Even if they were adhering to all professional codes and standards of due journalistic care, journalists in Serbia could have never been sure that they would receive sympathetic treatment by the courts. The verdict of the Appellate Court in Novi Sad is one important step on the path to enhancing the freedom of expression.