

III MONITORING OF THE ADOPTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

1. Law on the Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance

The National Parliament adopted the proposed amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance by which powers are conferred to the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance to fine the persons responsible for non-compliance with the decisions issued by him.

The Law on Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance was discussed in more detail in our previous Report, considering that it was in April that the relevant proposal was adopted by the Government as a result of an agreement reached on a meeting between the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and the Prime minister Cvetkovic in March of the current year. It was agreed on this meeting that the Government will take concrete action to ensure full respect of the right to free access to information, including, inter alia, the proposed legal amendments. With the amendments, which are now adopted in the Parliament, the Commissioner is conferred a power to directly impose successive fines, up to 200,000 dinars, against any person not complying with the decisions issued by him. Only when compliance with the Commissioner's decision is still missing after these fines are imposed, its compliance shall be ensured by the Government, by application of the enforcement mechanisms.

2. Law on Amendments to the Law on Marking the Days of Mourning on the Territory of the Republic of Serbia

The National Assembly has adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on Marking the Days of Mourning on the Territory of the Republic of Serbia, which transferred supervision over implementation of legal provisions relating to electronic media into competences of the Republic Broadcasting Agency. Prior to these Amendments, the Ministry of Culture was responsible for supervising of compliance with the days of mourning, both in print and electronic media. The provisions relating to the manner in which the days of mourning are to be marked in media have not changed; therefore, the only purpose of these amendments was to round up the competences of the broadcasting agency as a regulatory body for electronic media in Serbia.