

2008 NEWS ARCHIVE

The letter to UNI-MEI and The answer

Jim Wilson

Director UNI-MEI

Prague 7.5.2008

Dear colleagues!

I would like to ask you for a little help, maybe only for an advice.

Area of public right media in our country is constantly confronted with indiscriminate attacks. Trade Union „Media“ tries to defend public right mass media sphere against many attempts to restrict freedom and independence of Czech radio and Czech television. Recently we were successful and we managed to influence the Czech Parliament which rejected one absurd suggestion for restriction of money sources. If it would have been accepted the financial sources for Czech radio and Czech TV would be strictly cut.

We are sure that there will be another attempts in future. For this reason Trade Union Media decided to open public discussion on the topic: „the role of public right media in Czech republic in the time of unifying Europe“.

This discussion should involve representatives of media workers, media management, independent media theorist and also members of state executive.

As far as i was informed the European commission plans to formulate a new rules, or new principles which should be obligatory for public right media in all EU countries. I m sure that discussion on this field will be held in cooperation with EBU and also with UNI MEI.

So – i would like to ask you for informations about this topic. Be so kind and let me know when this talks with European commission will be opened and how far trade union organizations will be involved in it.

Thank you for you cooperation

Yours sincerely

Jiří Hubička

chairman of Trade Union Media Czech Republic

Dear Bozena,

The Commission is indeed reviewing the regulation on state aid in public service broadcasting. We have worked very closely with the EBU but also the

journalists during the last 10 months on that issue. We have taken part in

the public consultation the European Commission organised. For your

information I send you the copy of our statement and the Commission's

consultation texts. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any

information you need or question you may have. We could also discuss more

in Prague on 5 and 6 June. I am very interested to learn more in the

situation you are facing in the Czech Republic.

Best regards,

Johannes

(See attached file: EURO-MEI on PSB Review.pdf)(See attached file:

broadcasting_comm_memorandum.pdf)(See attached file:

broadcasting_comm_questionnaire_en.pdf)

Johannes Studinger

Deputy Director

UNI-MEI Global Union

130 media, entertainment, arts & sports unions in over 70 countries

31, Rue de l'Hôpital

Box 9

1000 Brussels - Belgium