

**UNI MEI is concerned with initiative for dismissal of the General Director of Slovenian public broadcaster RTV SLO**

The global community of media and entertainment unions affiliated to UNI Global Union is concerned with the latest developments at RTV SLO and the proposal to dismiss its General Director, Igor Kadunc.

Ahead of the extraordinary meeting of the Programme Council scheduled for November 2, we call on authorities to step and reconsider the proposal of dismissal.

UNI MEI condemns the repeated attacks by the Slovenian authorities on the financial and editorial independence RTV SLO. After the legislative initiative by the government in July to drastically reduce the financing of the public broadcaster, the initiative to remove the General Director is another attempt to suppress unbiased and independent programming and to silence critique of government policies.

Public Service Broadcasters need to receive appropriate and sustainable funding to allow them to carry out their public service mission with a high degree of professionalism and independence. RTV SLO is not properly funded and attacks on its financial performance are missing the point.

Public broadcasters play a leading role in contributing to media pluralism by providing high quality, impartial and independent news and information and a diversity of programming. Impartial, ethical, and investigative journalism, the protection of journalists and media workers and unrestricted access to information sources are prerequisites for this work. It also requires governments and public broadcasters to guarantee the independence of all media professionals, especially of the editors, exercising their profession. The initiative to dismiss the General Director at this moment in time is a political move designed to undermine the editorial independence of RTV SLO.

UNI MEI Global Union stands with its Slovenian colleagues at RTV SLO and all media professionals that are protesting and raise their voice to defend media pluralism. We are in solidarity with our trade union colleagues of GLOSA and SKUU RTV Slovenija. We join their demand for the Slovenian authorities to stop its attacks on the independence of public media and to ensure the editorial independence and financial autonomy of RTV SLO.