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**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON
LATEST ACTION AGAINST INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE FRY**

The European Union has paid attention to the latest action against independent media in the FRY, and wishes to express its dismay at the punitive fines that have been set for Blic, Danas and Studio B.

These fines are totally unjustified. It is absolutely contrary to every principle of freedom of expression to fine media only for publishing an official statement by a prominent political party. As the EU has stated on several previous occasions, the Public Information Act contradicts basic democratic principals. Its application as an instrument of financial censorship against independent media distances the authorities of the FRY even further away from European and international standards.

The European Union calls on the authorities in the FRY to reverse the abusive decision to fine Blic, Danas and Studio B, and reiterates its demand that the Public Information Act be repealed.