



Ms Delphine Ernotte Cunci
Chair of the Executive Board and President
European Broadcasting Union
L'Ancienne-Route 17A
Postal Box 45
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex / Geneva
SWITZERLAND

7 October 2021

Dear Ms Ernotte Cunci,

Repubblika is a civil society movement with the aim of enhancing democracy and human rights in Malta.

We are deeply concerned about the use and abuse of the public broadcaster in Malta by Government. This week's instructions, issued by the Government-appointed Executive Chair to all producers of current affairs' programmes have prompted us to share our concerns with your organisation.

Management has this week issued instructions that require a two-week prior approval of topics and guests in current affairs programmes. It is our considered opinion that this is tantamount to improper interference and may lead to censorship and partiality. A copy of these instructions are included with this letter.

We are also worried that elements within the Public Broadcasting Services (Malta) are allowing this abuse to go on and sometimes even collaborate in the Government's effort to use public broadcasting in a partisan and partial manner.

We believe that these instructions are contrary to the core values of public service media as espoused and promoted by the European Broadcasting Union. In your declaration 'Empowering Society. A Declaration on the Core Values of Public Service Media' you state:

"We want to be trusted programme-makers, trustworthy in all fictional and non-fictional programming, in all genres and formats, from news to entertainment, from science to sport, from culture to education.

We make our choices only in the interest of our audiences.

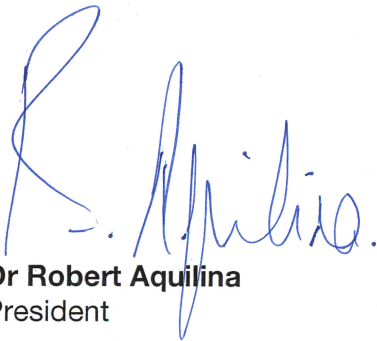
We strive to be completely impartial and independent from political, commercial and other influences and ideologies. Free to challenge the powerful, test prevailing assumptions, and contribute to an informed citizenship.

We want to be autonomous in all aspects within our remit such as programming, editorial decision-making, staffing.

Our commitment to independence needs to be underpinned by safeguards in law, and our commitment to the safety of journalists needs to be underpinned in all our actions.”

We are certain that the European Broadcasting Union shares our belief that these core values are to be upheld in Malta too.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Robert Aquilina
President