

## THE GOVERNMENT'S GIFT TO WAZ AMOUNTS TO 3.5 MILLION DENARS DIRECTLY AND 6.8 MILLION "INDIRECTLY"!



Take a good look at the facsimiles of the issues 44 and 51 of this year's "Official Gazette of The Republic of Macedonia" which carried the decisions "on allocation of assets-transfers to newspaper and magazine publishers for 2003" and "on allocation of unallocated assets-transfers" to the same publishers for the same year. Then take a look at the front pages of "Dnevnik" and "Utrinski vesnik" of July 29, 2003. From the two decisions made by the Government, regarding the allocation of budgetary funds to the newspapers, besides the amounts, it can be undoubtedly ascertained that:

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1.

"Utrinski vesnik", with the first allocation according to a government decision from the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, published in "The Official Gazette of The Republic of Macedonia" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2003, that became effective "one day after the publication date", which means on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2003, was given 3,800,000 denars (61,091.5 euros, as calculated by the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Macedonia when this article was written).

2.

"Vest", with the same allocation by a government decision published in "The Official Gazette" and so on, was given 3,000,000 denars (49,020 euros).

3.

"Dnevnik", with the "Decision on allocation of the unallocated assets-transfers to the publishers" of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2003, published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" from the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2003 that became effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2003, was given 3,500,000 denars (57,190 euros).

4.

From the front pages of "Dnevnik" and "Utrinski vesnik" from the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2003 it can be seen that WAZ has finally bought the three daily newspapers in Macedonian language that have the biggest circulation in Macedonia. It is assumed that the purchase had taken place a couple of days before. According to the Monopoly Administration of the Republic of Macedonia this happened on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2003.

### **What can be concluded of all this?**

1.

That the decisions to allocate funds from the budget to "Vest" and "Utrinski vesnik" were made and became effective 20 days before these newspapers were bought by WAZ.

2.

That 51,190 euros of public funds were given to "Dnevnik" when it was in the ownership of WAZ for at least 10 days already.

Or:

**The Government of the Republic of Macedonia directly endowed WAZ with 3,500,000 denars, and 'indirectly' with another 6,800,000 denars!**

(Things could get even more complicated or maybe turn out in favor of the Government if the Information Agency of the Republic of Macedonia announces the amount of the funds given and the time when they were transferred to “Utrinski vesnik”, “Vest” and “Dnevnik”)