



RAI DETAILED ANALYSIS

2023-10-29_report_Regular_autumn_2023

Broadcast: RAI Programme | 2023-10-29 | Analysed on: 2026-05-24 12:11

Version 3.0-detail | Universal 3.0-detail | Konverter 3.4 (2026-05-20) | Riferimento: Contratto di servizio RAI Art. 7

OVERALL SCORE

6.3/10

Serious deviation from the principle of balance. High degree of deviation

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly unbalanced/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification according to Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) classifies political parties on a left-right scale (0 = far left, 10 = far right). We use the Pew Research Center thresholds (2025): values <4.5 = Left, 4.5–5.5 = Centre, >5.5 = Right. This allows for an objective classification of the partisan bias detected.

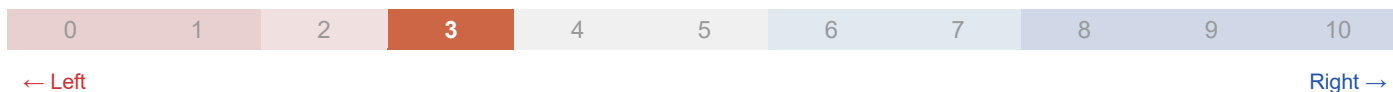
Party	AVS	PD	M5S	Azione	NM	FI	Lega	Fdi
CHES	1.85	3.38	3.46	5.08	5.80	6.46	8.00	8.54
Spectrum	Left	Left	Left	Centre	Right	Right	Right	Right

The overall tendency is presented on a scale from 0 to 10 (0 = strongly favourable to the left, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly favourable to the right). The calculation is based on the difference in the average favouritism of left-wing vs. right-wing parties (grouping according to CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

3.2 / 10

Favourable to the left



Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not contribute to the overall score.



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The Italian government in office since October 2022 is led by Giorgia Meloni (Fdi) and consists of a centre-right coalition formed by Fratelli d'Italia, Lega, Forza Italia and Noi Moderati. The main opposition is the Partito Democratico (PD), flanked by M5S, AVS, Azione, Italia Viva and +Europa. The governing coalition controls the majority in both the Chamber and the Senate.

Party	CHES L-R	Seats	Government/Opposition	Key position
AVS	2,30	12	Opposition	100% renewables, ius soli, wealth tax
PD	3,40	69	Opposition (main)	Pro-EU, minimum wage, ecological transition
+Europa	3,80	2	Opposition	Pro-European integration, liberal-progressive
M5S	4,20	52	Opposition	Citizens' income, anti-corruption, public water
Azione	4,90	21	Opposition	Liberal-reformist, centre
Italia Viva	5,00	(in Az)	Opposition	Centre, liberal-centrist
Noi Moderati	5,80	7	Government	Mild-right, Christian-democratic
Forza Italia	6,50	45	Government	Liberal-conservative, guarantism, pro-EU Atlanticist
Lega	8,10	66	Government	Sovereignist, flat tax, differentiated autonomy
Fdi	8,30	119	Government (PM)	National-conservative, naval blockade, nuclear

The main lines of political conflict in Italy concern: (1) the management of migration flows and security decrees; (2) the reform of the judiciary and the separation of magistrates' careers; (3) differentiated autonomy and the relationship between the central state and the regions; (4) foreign policy, in particular relations with Saudi Arabia, arms sales and Italy's positioning within the international geopolitical framework.

RAI is the Italian public broadcasting service, funded by the licence fee and subject to the Service Contract with the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, which under Art. 6 requires pluralism, completeness and impartiality of information, as well as the separation between news and commentary. Historically RAI has been characterised by the so-called "lottizzazione" — the division of channels according to party affiliations — and under the Meloni government the management of TG1 and the Board of Directors are found to be influenced by the governing coalition. Report is an investigative journalism programme on RAI 3, traditionally associated with a centre-left editorial line, presented by Sigfrido Ranucci.



CHAPTER 1 — PARTISAN BIAS

Party	Score (-5..+5)	Representation in the broadcast vs. programmatic position
Fdi (Fratelli d'Italia)	-2	01:38:45 "Last May 31st, however, the executive led by Giorgia Meloni reopens arms sales to Saudi Arabia" — Programmatic position: pragmatism in foreign policy, defence of national interests — Partially distorted: the decision is presented without the context of the Yemen ceasefire or the government's official position, only as a negative fact
PD (Partito Democratico)	+1	01:38:18 "The authorisation granted despite the opposition of both the European Parliament and the UN is revoked in 2020 by the Conte government" — Programmatic position: humanitarian corridors, human rights, pro-EU — Correctly represented by positive implication; the Conte government (M5S-PD) is cited favourably for revoking the arms authorisations
M5S (Movimento 5 Stelle)	0	Not directly cited in the broadcast as an autonomous political subject; the Conte government is mentioned but without explicit party attribution — Programmatic position: anti-corruption, transparency — Absent
Lega	0	Not directly cited in the broadcast — Programmatic position: sovereignism, flat tax — Absent
Forza Italia	-3	00:15:32 "Last week we reported on Forza Italia's debt of 90 million euros to the Berlusconi family" — Programmatic position: guarantism, liberalism, pro-market — Distorted: FI is represented primarily through the budget deficit, internal tensions, accusations of fictitious members and the aggressive reactions of Gasparri and Tajani; no programmatic position is correctly illustrated
AVS (Alleanza Verdi Sinistra)	0	Not directly cited — Programmatic position: human rights, stop fossil fuels — Absent as a political subject, but its positions on human rights are implicitly supported by the narrative

Summary of Partisan Bias

- Most accurate representation: PD (Score +1) — cited implicitly in a favourable manner for revoking the arms authorisations
- Strongest distortion: Forza Italia (Score -3) — represented almost exclusively through financial scandals and aggressive reactions from its representatives
- Average deviation from 0: 1.0
- Conclusion: The broadcast does not systematically concern itself with representing the programmatic positions of the parties, but when it cites them it does so selectively: Forza Italia is associated with debts, fictitious members and disorderly reactions; the Meloni government is cited negatively for reopening arms sales; the Conte government is cited positively for the revocation. This asymmetry constitutes a moderate partisan bias against the centre-right.

Overall Left-Right Tendency

TENDENCY SCORE: +1.8

(Positive = favourable to the left, Negative = favourable to the right, 0.0 = balanced)

CLASSIFICATION: Favourable to the left



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Rationale: The broadcast presents the Meloni government negatively for reopening arms sales to Saudi Arabia, cites favourably the revocation carried out by the Conte government, devotes an entire segment to delegitimising Forza Italia through the budget deficit and the aggressive reactions of its representatives, and associates Matteo Renzi (IV) with opaque relations with Saudi Arabia. The critical positions on human rights, sport washing and Saudi influence are consistent with the political agenda of the Italian centre-left and left.



CHAPTER 2 — BROADCAST INFORMATION AND THEMATIC FRAMING

Broadcast Data

- Title: Report
- Date (from file name): Not specified in the transcript; internal content suggests autumn 2023 (references to the BIE vote of 28 November 2023, the Mestre viaduct accident of 3 October 2023, the engagement of Mancini in Saudi Arabia)
- Duration (estimated from transcript): Approximately 120 minutes
- Presenter/Reporter: Sigfrido Ranucci (presenter), Daniele Autieri (Saudi Arabia investigation), Claudia Di Pasquale (Sicily investigation), Giulia Presutti (Venice viaduct investigation), Lucina Paternesi (Sorgà landfill investigation)

Person	Role	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Sigfrido Ranucci	Report presenter	RAI 3	Centre-left (editorially)
Daniele Autieri	Investigative journalist	Report/RAI 3	—
Claudia Di Pasquale	Investigative journalist	Report/RAI 3	—
Giulia Presutti	Investigative journalist	Report/RAI 3	—
Lucina Paternesi	Investigative journalist	Report/RAI 3	—
Maurizio Gasparri	Senator	Forza Italia	Centre-right
Antonio Tajani	Foreign Minister	Forza Italia	Centre-right
Paolo Barelli	Chamber group leader	Forza Italia	Centre-right
Alfredo Messina	Former FI treasurer	Forza Italia	Centre-right
Matteo Renzi	Senator	Italia Viva	Centre
Giuseppe Conte	Former Prime Minister	M5S	Centre-left
Gabriele Gravina	FIGC President	—	—
Gian Gaetano Bellavia	Money laundering/accounts expert	—	—
Kenneth Williams	Former FBI special agent	—	—
Brett Eagleston	Son of a 9/11 victim	—	—
Lina Al-Hathloul	Human rights activist	Alcast	—
Radia Al-Mutawakil	Yemen human rights activist	Mwatana	—
Saudi League representative	Saudi official	Saudi Arabian government	—
Ceferin	UEFA President	UEFA	—
Commisso	Fiorentina owner	—	—



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Gio Barone	Former Fiorentina CEO	—	—
Dimitri Kerkentzes	BIE Secretary General	BIE	—
Nuccia Albano	Palermo City Council Assessor	Democrazia Cristiana	Centre-right
Mayor of Venice (Brugnaro)	Mayor	Civic list/centre-right	Centre-right
Paolo Giandon	Veneto Region official	Veneto Region (Lega)	Centre-right
Mayor of Sorgà	Mayor	—	—
Elena Murelli	Senator	Lega	Right

Main Theme

The broadcast addresses four separate investigations: (1) the car fluff landfill in Sorgà (VR) and the conflict with the vialone nano IGP rice paddies; (2) Forza Italia's debt to the Berlusconi family and the party's reactions to the previous episode; (3) Saudi Arabia's soft power in Italy and worldwide, with a focus on 9/11, sport washing, Expo 2030 and arms sales; (4) the Mestre viaduct accident of 3 October 2023 and institutional responsibilities.

Public Debate Context

The four investigations touch on issues of strong public relevance: the management of industrial waste and the protection of Italian agri-food excellence; the financial transparency of political parties; the role of Saudi Arabia as a global geopolitical actor and its relations with Italy; the safety of road infrastructure and the responsibility of managing bodies. All four topics are the subject of active political and media debate in the reference period. The broadcast is set against a backdrop of tension between Report and the governing coalition, as evidenced by the reactions of Gasparri and Tajani in the same episode.



CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS

Hardfacts — 9 quantifiable and scientifically verifiable techniques

1. EXPERT SELECTION

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Definition: Who speaks as an expert?

Expert 1: Gian Gaetano Bellavia — Money laundering/accounts analysis expert

Timestamp: 01:11:15

Statement: "You can see the economic disaster, but it couldn't have been otherwise. It's like a football club, not a political party, it can only lose."

Framing: A financial money laundering expert called upon to analyse Forza Italia's accounts; his presence implies a suspicion of irregularities which he himself then partially refutes.

Missing opposing voice: An accountant or party finance expert who would have assessed FI's accounts as normal for a party of that size.

In-depth source verification:

(a) FUNDING: Self-employed professional; no direct conflicts of interest with FI are apparent, but his specialisation in money laundering creates an implicit association with unlawful activities even when he does not find any.

(b) MANDATE: Compatible with accounts analysis; not compatible with the implication of unproven unlawful acts.

(c) CREDIBILITY MATRIX (Source traffic light, 6 dimensions, from -2 to +2):

D1 Conflict of interest: +1 — No evident direct conflict

D2 Personal risk: +1 — No significant risk in analysing public accounts

D3 Technical competence: +2 — Accounts and money laundering expert, competent for the analysis

D4 Consistency of opinions: 0 — Not verifiable from transcript

D5 Emotionality vs. data: +1 — Data-based response, moderate tone

D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source, direct analysis of accounts

• TOTAL: +7 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN

(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE: His presence is framed as if he were investigating irregularities, but he himself states that the economic disaster was structural and not unlawful. The broadcast uses his presence to create an association with money laundering that he does not confirm.

Expert 2: Kenneth Williams — Former FBI special agent

Timestamp: 00:34:10

Statement: "To my great surprise, my employer responded to me saying that they would not want me to assist the families of the victims of 9/11, because this could potentially have had a negative impact on ongoing investigative activities, but above all because the American government did not want to damage good relations with the Saudi kingdom."

Framing: Former FBI agent who testifies to the pressure from the American government not to assist the victims' families; a source with institutional credibility but with a partisan position in the proceedings.

Missing opposing voice: A representative of the FBI or the American Department of Justice who would have explained the operational reasons for the decision.



In-depth source verification:

(a) FUNDING: Partisan consultant in the victims' families' proceedings; structural conflict of interest.

(b) MANDATE: Not compatible with neutral assessment; he is a party to the proceedings.

(c) CREDIBILITY MATRIX:

D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — Partisan consultant in the proceedings

D2 Personal risk: +2 — Risked his career for this position

D3 Technical competence: +2 — Former FBI agent, competent on the subject

D4 Consistency of opinions: +1 — Position consistent with his role in the proceedings

D5 Emotionality vs. data: +1 — Measured tone, based on verifiable facts

D6 Source level: +1 — Secondary source (direct but partisan testimony)

• TOTAL: +6 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN

(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE: His position as a partisan consultant is not made explicit in the broadcast; he is presented as a neutral former FBI agent.

Expert 3: Radia Al-Mutawakil — Yemen human rights activist, Mwatana

Timestamp: 01:14:45

Statement: "In 2016 we documented an air strike by Saudi Arabia that hit an entire family. We identified the remains of the bomb and part of it had been manufactured in Italy."

Framing: Human rights activist in Yemen, listed by Time among the 100 most influential women; a source with strong moral credibility but with an advocacy mandate.

In-depth source verification:

(a) FUNDING: Mwatana is a Yemeni human rights organisation; funding not specified in the transcript; possible international funders (Western foundations).

(b) MANDATE: Advocacy organisation; structurally oriented towards documenting violations; not neutral by definition.

(c) CREDIBILITY MATRIX:

D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — Advocacy organisation with a specific mandate

D2 Personal risk: +2 — Activist in a conflict zone, high personal risk

D3 Technical competence: +2 — Verifiable field documentation

D4 Consistency of opinions: +1 — Position consistent with the organisation's mandate

D5 Emotionality vs. data: +1 — Based on documentation, not only emotional appeals

D6 Source level: +1 — Primary source for documented violations

• TOTAL: +6 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN

(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE: Her advocacy mandate is not made explicit; she is presented as a neutral witness.

Missing expert groups:

- Geopolitical experts in favour of engagement with authoritarian regimes
- Independent industrial waste management technicians
- Representatives of the Italian defence industry

Summary (matrix result per expert):

- Bellavia: GREEN (+7) — Competent, but used to create implicit unproven associations
- Williams: GREEN (+6) — Credible, but undisclosed conflict of interest
- Al-Mutawakil: GREEN (+6) — Credible, but advocacy mandate not made explicit



2. SOURCE SELECTION

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Claims without a primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Definition: Which sources are cited? Are they diverse and independent?

Source 1: Declassified FBI documents — Operation ANCOR

Timestamp: 00:31:43 — Statement: "Operation Ancor brought to light the activities of numerous individuals, employees of the Saudi government and in particular of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, who provided support to the attackers from the moment of their arrival in the United States"

(a) Funding and management: American government documents declassified by Biden's executive order; primary source of high value.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: None direct; but the selection of which documents to cite is editorial.

(c) Missing is a source that contextualises the limits of Operation ANCOR and its non-definitive conclusions.

Source 2: Bank of Italy reports on Renzi's banking transactions

Timestamp: 01:10:26 — Statement: "From the Bank of Italy reports on the banking transactions of the former Prime Minister, a transfer of almost 40,000 euros dated 7 February 2019, paid by the Saudi Commission for Tourism, emerges"

(a) Funding and management: Bank of Italy, independent public institution.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: None; but Bank of Italy reports do not imply unlawful acts, only unusual transactions.

(c) Missing is the explanation that Bank of Italy reports are automatic administrative acts, not accusations.

Source 3: Anonymous witness on France and the "Deep State"

Timestamp: 01:31:59 — Statement: "The influence they have in France goes far beyond what we can see"

(a) Funding and management: Anonymous source, not verifiable.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: Not verifiable due to anonymity.

(c) Any possibility of independent verification is missing.

Rumour check (penalties):

Rumour 1:

Timestamp: 01:33:00

Claim: "For security reasons we cannot show his image, but he would allegedly be the link between Saudi interests and French ones"

Linguistic marker: "would allegedly be"

Primary source present: No — penalty +1

Rumour 2:

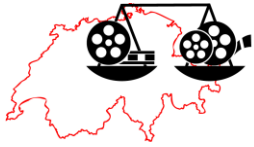
Timestamp: 01:03:07

Claim: "The news has been sold. The Pif fund."

Linguistic marker: Statement without explicit source

Primary source present: No — penalty +1

Summary: The broadcast mixes primary sources of high value (FBI documents, Bank of Italy reports) with unverifiable anonymous testimonies and claims without a primary source. The score reflects this heterogeneity.



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3. TIME DISTRIBUTION

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Definition: Distribution of speaking time among the different positions.

Estimated speaking time:

- Voices critical of Saudi Arabia/government/FI/Renzi: approx. 65 min. (54%)
- Institutional/defensive voices (Gasparri, Tajani, Barelli, Giandon, municipal officials): approx. 20 min. (17%)
- Presenter/narrator: approx. 25 min. (21%)
- Neutral/technical voices: approx. 10 min. (8%)

Summary: The distribution of time is strongly skewed in favour of critical voices. Institutional and defensive voices receive approximately one fifth of the total time and are systematically contradicted immediately after their statements.



4. SELECTIVE OMISSION

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Definition: What is not shown despite being relevant?

Omission 1:

Context: The Yemen ceasefire as the motivation for the Meloni government's reopening of arms sales

Relevant at: 01:38:45

Effect: The Meloni government's decision is presented as a questionable political choice without the diplomatic assessment that motivated it being illustrated; the Yemeni activist immediately refutes the ceasefire, but no government representative can reply.

Omission 2:

Context: The fact that the Bank of Italy reports on Renzi's transactions are automatic administrative acts and not accusations of unlawful conduct

Relevant at: 01:10:26

Effect: The citation of the "Bank of Italy reports" creates an implicit association with suspicious activities that is not supported by the content of the reports themselves.

Omission 3:

Context: The full context of Nuccia Albano's career as a forensic doctor and the first woman to hold that role in Sicily

Relevant at: 01:41:08

Effect: The question about the Mafia father is asked before the assessor's career is illustrated; the positive context is added only after her defensive reaction, reducing its impact.

Summary: The most significant omissions concern the context that would allow institutional positions to be assessed fairly; information that could mitigate the broadcast's implicit accusations is systematically omitted.

Missing voices

- Independent industrial waste management expert: Could have assessed the technical safety of car fluff in the landfill and compared it with European standards
- Representative of the Meloni government on arms sales: Could have illustrated the diplomatic assessment of the Yemen ceasefire and the conditions imposed on Saudi Arabia
- Geopolitical expert in favour of Saudi engagement: Could have argued the case for pragmatism in international relations with authoritarian regimes
- Representative of Yutong/Powerbus: Could have responded to the accusations about technical defects in the electric buses
- Defence lawyer for RMI/Cordifin: Could have contested the accusations of irregularities at the Sorgà landfill
- Parliamentary law expert on source protection: Could have contextualised the debate on Forza Italia's anonymous source
- Workers from the RWM factory in Sardinia: Could have directly expressed their point of view on the employment/ethics dilemma of arms production
- Saudi Arabian representative on human rights: Could have responded to the specific accusations from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch



5. DATA MANIPULATION

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Complete figures include: absolute value, share (%) and trend

Definition: Selective or misleading use of statistics.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 01:38:38

Data: "From the beginning of the year to August, 81 death sentences have been carried out in Saudi Arabia"

Dimensions: (a) Absolute value — shown; (b) Share — not shown (comparison with other countries); (c) Trend — not shown (increase or decrease compared to previous years)

Missing context: The number of executions in Saudi Arabia in 2023 was the highest in recent decades (147 in 2022 according to data cited elsewhere in the same broadcast), but no comparison with other countries that carry out death sentences (USA, China, Iran) is provided, nor a historical trend.

Effect: The data is used as a rhetorical argument without the context necessary to assess its relative gravity.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 01:26:36

Data: "A clear answer: approximately 500 billion dollars between practically direct and indirect revenues, induced effects and the entire fiscal component"

Dimensions: (a) Absolute value — shown; (b) Share — not shown (% of Italian GDP); (c) Trend — not shown

Missing context: The estimate of 500 billion is attributed to a LUISS calculation without the underlying assumptions being illustrated; no alternative or critical estimate is provided.

Effect: The data is used to legitimise Rome's candidacy without critical verification.

Summary: The broadcast uses data selectively, favouring those that support the narrative thesis and omitting the comparative and temporal context necessary for a balanced assessment.



6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

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Definition: Delegitimation through association with negative groups or ideas.

Association 1:

Timestamp: 00:07:42 — 00:08:16

Quote: "Cordifin also includes Rotamfer, which manages the Cadi Capri landfill between Verona and Sona, and which came under investigation 15 years ago for the illegal trafficking of special, hazardous and high-risk waste"

Technique: The new Sorgà landfill is associated with a landfill belonging to the same group that was under investigation 15 years earlier; the association is structural (same group) but does not imply that the new project is unlawful.

Effect: The Sorgà project is delegitimised by association with the group's prior criminal record, even though the conviction is not final and concerns a different facility.

Association 2:

Timestamp: 01:07:52

Quote: "Matteo Renzi has never hidden his friendship with the reigning prince Bin Salman. A friendship he shares with other politicians, such as the Vice-President of the European Commission, Schinas, the first European leader to have met Bin Salman after the murder of Jamal Khashoggi."

Technique: Renzi is associated with Bin Salman through personal friendship, and this friendship is in turn associated with the murder of Khashoggi through temporal proximity.

Effect: Renzi is implicitly delegitimised by association with a murder for which he bears no responsibility.

Association 3:

Timestamp: 01:41:51 — 01:43:04

Quote: "By Domenico Albano is meant the Mafia boss of Borgetto who in fact protected Salvatore Giuliano"

Technique: Assessor Nuccia Albano is associated with her Mafia father through the direct question about his identity; the broadcast itself then states that "the sins of the father cannot and must not fall upon those of the children", but the reputational damage has already been done.

Effect: The assessor is delegitimised by association with her father, despite the broadcast itself acknowledging the injustice of this association.

Chain of association (present): Renzi → friendship with Bin Salman → Bin Salman → Khashoggi murder → Renzi implicitly complicit

Summary (category assignment with matrix rationale):

- RMI/Cordifin: Category B (Borderline case) — structural association with real but non-final prior criminal record
- Renzi: Category B (Borderline case) — association with Bin Salman documented, but implication of complicity not proven
- Nuccia Albano: Category A (Critical researcher with methodology) — the question is journalistically legitimate, but the broadcast itself acknowledges its limits



7. TIMING

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Definition: Strategic placement of information (beginning/middle/end).

Finding 1:

Position: 00:00:00 — 00:03:50 (Beginning)

Content: The broadcast opens with bucolic images of vialone nano IGP rice paddies, evocative music, a description of the territory as "very rich in water" and of the rice as "among the finest in the world"

Timing effect: The emotional opening creates a positive frame for the territory that is then threatened by the landfill; the emotional contrast is maximised by placing beauty before the threat.

Finding 2:

Position: 00:15:09 — 00:17:14 (Beginning of the second segment)

Content: The aggressive reactions of Gasparri ("criminal use of television") and Tajani ("I give journalism at Report a zero") are presented before Report's response

Timing effect: The disorderly reactions of FI politicians are shown first, creating a frame of institutional aggression towards journalism; Report's measured response comes afterwards, amplifying the contrast.

Summary: Timing is systematically used to maximise the emotional impact of the broadcast's theses, placing positive images before threats and aggressive reactions before measured responses.



8. SELECTIVE INDIGNATION

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Indignation = bias. Selective indignation amplifies the result. Score = degree of indignation (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Definition: Indignation towards certain positions but not towards comparable ones.

Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment, the triggering event must be documented. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if comparable events in other positions have not produced an analogous reaction.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 01:22:54

Triggering event: Senator Murelli (Lega) declares she does not wish to give the interview because the Saudi ambassador is not giving one

Reaction: "It concerns me that an Italian senator does not speak because a foreign state tells her not to speak"

Comparison: Analogous event — Renzi refuses to answer specific questions (01:04:04: "No, no, absolutely not") —

Reaction: no analogous expression of concern for parliamentary sovereignty

Asymmetry: Documented — concern about "loss of sovereignty" is expressed only for Murelli (Lega, government) and not for Renzi (IV, opposition)

Degree of indignation: 3/5

Selectivity: 3/5

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 01:38:45

Triggering event: The Meloni government reopens arms sales to Saudi Arabia

Reaction: Citation of the Yemeni activist who refutes the ceasefire; no government voice to reply

Comparison: Analogous event — the Renzi government had authorised the original sale in 2016 — Reaction: criticism is present but less emphasised compared to the Meloni reopening

Asymmetry: Partially documented — both decisions are criticised, but the Meloni reopening receives more space and more critical voices

Degree of indignation: 2/5

Selectivity: 2/5

Summary: Selective indignation is present but not systematic; the clearest case concerns the differential treatment of Murelli and Renzi with regard to the issue of parliamentary sovereignty vis-à-vis Saudi Arabia.



9. SELECTIVE OMISSION — OVERALL PICTURE

7/10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Definition: How completely does the broadcast represent the topic? Are relevant perspectives, facts or actors systematically omitted?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 01:38:45

Missing perspective/fact: The Italian diplomatic assessment of the Yemen ceasefire and the conditions imposed on Saudi Arabia for the reopening of arms sales

Relevance: The Meloni government's decision is presented as arbitrary without the diplomatic decision-making process being illustrated

Impact: The resulting picture suggests an irresponsible political decision without the government being able to argue its position

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:08:18

Missing perspective/fact: The technical position of RMI/Cordifin on the safety of the landfill project in Sorgà

Relevance: The company is the main actor in the investigation but has no voice in the report

Impact: The resulting picture is unilaterally critical of the company with no possibility of reply

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 01:09:07

Missing perspective/fact: The full context of the Future Investment Initiative Institute's activities and its international composition

Relevance: The institute is presented as a tool of Saudi influence without its composition and legitimate activities being illustrated

Impact: Renzi's participation in the institute is presented as compromising without the necessary context

Summary: The broadcast systematically omits perspectives that could mitigate the implicit accusations; the omissions do not appear to be random but structural to the narrative thesis.

Share of perspectives covered

Inverted: the original value measures coverage (higher = better). Shown as deviation (higher = greater gaps).

- [A] Position of the Veneto Region on the Sorgà landfill and its technical rationale
- [B] Position of the company RMI/Cordifin on the safety of the project
- [C] Official position of the Italian government on arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the Yemen ceasefire
- [D] Saudi Arabia's position on the accusations of human rights violations
- [E] Forza Italia's position on the 90 million debt and its restructuring strategies
- [F] Position of the Municipality of Venice on the measures taken before the accident
- [G] Position of the company Yutong/Powerbus on the safety of the electric buses
- [H] Independent technical assessment of the safety of car fluff in the landfill
- [I] Perspective of geopolitical experts in favour of pragmatism in relations with Saudi Arabia
- [J] Perspective of workers at the bomb factory in Sardinia on the employment/ethics dilemma

[A] COVERED



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Timestamp: 00:06:36 — Quote: "What I signed is an integrated authorisation. That is, I took note that the assessments had been made" — Assessment: The Region's position is present but is immediately contradicted by the Municipality's data and the live measurement of the water table; the Region has no further space to argue.

[B] LOST

Timestamp: 00:08:18 — Quote: "The Code conducted an interview with the group's managers" — Assessment: The transcript indicates that an interview was requested from the Cordifin/RMI group's managers but they do not appear to have responded; their position is not represented.

[C] LOST

Timestamp: 01:38:45 — Quote: "Last May 31st, however, the executive led by Giorgia Meloni reopens arms sales to Saudi Arabia, justifying the decision with the signing of the Yemen ceasefire" — Assessment: The government's official rationale is cited in a single sentence and immediately refuted by the Yemeni activist; no government representative is consulted.

[D] LOST

Timestamp: 00:58:43 — Quote: "We do all this for our people and indeed we believe there will be many more investments on an international scale" — Assessment: The Saudi representative is interviewed but his responses are framed negatively; no voice is given to experts who assess Saudi reforms positively.

[E] COVERED

Timestamp: 00:20:27 — Quote: "You made a broadcast of about 50 minutes. Where it was not clear what the problem was" — Assessment: Barelli and other FI representatives are consulted but their responses are systematically downplayed or contradicted.

[F] COVERED

Timestamp: 01:53:39 — Quote: "It is a country where it takes an enormous amount of time to award a contract" — Assessment: The municipal official responds but evasively; the Municipality's position is present but fragmented.

[G] LOST

Timestamp: 01:56:13 — Quote: "Only last year around 450 were sold in Europe alone" — Assessment: No representative of Yutong or Powerbus is consulted on the technical safety of the vehicles.

[H] LOST

Timestamp: 00:01:53 — Quote: "We are talking about an enormous mountain that would accommodate approximately 40% of national car fluff" — Assessment: No independent waste management expert assesses the safety of the project; only opposing voices.

[I] LOST

Timestamp: 01:19:18 — Quote: "We know that in politics pragmatism is necessary, right?" — Assessment: The perspective of geopolitical pragmatism is cited but not developed; no international relations expert in favour of engagement with Saudi Arabia is interviewed.

[J] LOST

Timestamp: 01:17:54 — Quote: "Another person told us about a worker at the factory who, when asked what do you do, stayed silent" — Assessment: The workers at the Sardinian factory are cited only through emotional anecdotes; no direct voice from them on the employment/ethics dilemma.

Completeness Score: 3/10

Rationale: Of ten relevant perspectives, only three are addressed in a substantive manner (A, E, F), and even these are systematically framed unfavourably relative to the broadcast's thesis. The seven missing perspectives (B, C, D, G, H, I, J) could have significantly balanced the narrative. The broadcast favours critical voices and emotional testimonies over institutional positions and independent technical assessments.

1. Mwatana for Human Rights (Radia Al-Mutawakil)

1. FUNDING: Yemeni human rights NGO; funding not specified in the transcript; probable international funders (Western foundations, European governments).
2. MANDATE: Documentation of human rights violations in Yemen; advocacy mandate, not neutral by definition.
3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Institutional interest in documenting violations to maintain relevance and funding; does not imply the falsity of the documentation.
4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX: D1 -1 (advocacy) / D2 +2 (high personal risk) / D3 +2 (field documentation) / D4 +1 (consistent) / D5 +1 (data-based) / D6 +1 (primary source for violations) → TOTAL +6 → GREEN LIGHT
5. OPPOSING VOICE: Not cited; a representative of the Saudi government or an expert in international humanitarian law could have contextualised the documentation.



2. Alcast (Lina Al-Hathloul)

1. FUNDING: Civil rights defence organisation based in Brussels; funding not specified.
2. MANDATE: Civil rights defence; advocacy mandate.
3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Institutional interest in maintaining visibility of her sister's case; does not imply the falsity of the testimonies.
4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX: D1 -1 (advocacy + personal interest) / D2 +2 (personal risk for her sister) / D3 +1 (direct testimony) / D4 +1 (consistent) / D5 0 (mix of data and emotional appeal) / D6 +1 (primary source for testimony) → TOTAL +4 → YELLOW LIGHT
5. OPPOSING VOICE: Not cited; a representative of the Saudi government could have responded to the specific accusations.

3. Future Investment Initiative Institute (cited in relation to Renzi)

1. FUNDING: Founded by Mohammed bin Salman; direct Saudi funding.
 2. MANDATE: Promotion of international investments in Saudi Arabia; promotional mandate, not neutral.
 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Institutional interest in legitimising the Saudi regime through the participation of prominent international figures.
 4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX: D1 -2 (direct funding from the criticised subject) / D2 0 (no risk) / D3 0 (not a technical source) / D4 0 (not verifiable) / D5 -1 (promotional) / D6 -1 (tertiary source) → TOTAL -4 → YELLOW LIGHT
 5. OPPOSING VOICE: Not cited; an expert in sovereign fund governance could have contextualised the institute's role.
- IMPORTANT: "Recognised" is not an objective qualification. It is a social attribution that must itself be verified.



Softfacts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. FRAMING

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Definition: How is the topic fundamentally framed?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:26:50

Quote: "All this while from the ashes of the most momentous attack in the history of the West, that of 11 September 2001, an embarrassment is emerging. An embarrassment that is being sought to be hidden from the eyes of men."

Manipulation: The frame of the "hidden embarrassment" presupposes a truth that is being concealed; the word "embarrassment" implies guilt without proving it; "is being sought to be hidden" implies an active subject that censors without identifying it.

Why problematic: The frame presupposes the conclusion (Saudi Arabia is guilty and conceals it) before the evidence is presented; the viewer is oriented towards a conclusion before assessing the facts.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:26:39

Quote: "It is considered the most credible interlocutor for resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and also that between Israel and Palestine. It is a right to set against that of Iran and Qatar, which have directly financed and supported Hamas."

Manipulation: The frame presents Saudi Arabia as a positive alternative to Iran and Qatar, but immediately afterwards the broadcast delegitimises it; the initial frame is used to create an ironic contrast.

Why problematic: The frame creates expectations that are then systematically refuted, amplifying the critical effect.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 01:40:16

Quote: "While all the rest of the world, including politicians from our country, stay silent when they meet the Arabs, they do not challenge them on the violation of crimes and the violation of human rights. We hope it is the considered choice of foreign policy and not the price to pay for not upsetting our, those who are considered powerful, allies."

Manipulation: The broadcast's final frame on Saudi Arabia presents the silence of politicians as a "price to pay" — implying corruption or cowardice — without direct evidence.

Why problematic: The moralising frame transforms a complex foreign policy choice into a matter of politicians' personal integrity.

Summary: The framing is systematically oriented towards presenting institutions (government, regions, municipalities, parties) as corrupt, cowardly or complicit; alternative interpretations are excluded from the narrative frame.



11. WORD AND TERM CHOICE

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Definition: What language is used? What connotations are created?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:26:50

Quote: "sport washing, that is, to clean up the image of those who have failed to observe humanitarian rights"

Manipulation: "Sport washing" is an advocacy term, not neutral; it implies intentionality and deception.

Why problematic: A neutral alternative would be: "use of sport to improve international image"; the term "washing" implies dirt and deception without proof.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:05:22

Quote: "I would say that the facility was wanted, because that small municipality was chosen, very far away, which brings few votes."

Manipulation: The quote from an unidentified interlocutor uses the term "brings few votes" to imply a cynical political choice; the broadcast does not verify this interpretation.

Why problematic: A neutral alternative would be to verify whether technical criteria exist for the choice of site; the quote is used as if it were an established fact.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 00:17:10

Quote: "I am saying that I find the shoddy conduct scandalous, a criminal use of television"

Manipulation: Gasparri's words ("shoddy", "criminal") are reported in full and without critical commentary, allowing them to delegitimise themselves.

Why problematic: The broadcast uses Gasparri's aggressive words as proof of his unreasonableness; the choice to report them in full is editorial.

Summary: The choice of words reflects a critical editorial orientation towards institutions; advocacy terms such as "sport washing" are used as if they were neutral, and the aggressive statements of opponents are reported in full to delegitimise them.



12. PRESENTER BEHAVIOUR

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Definition: Asymmetries in follow-up questions, interruptions, expressions of sympathy.

Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment, the triggering event must be documented. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if comparable events with other guests have not produced an analogous intervention.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 01:05:56 — 01:07:00

Triggering event: Renzi states he only proposed a dinner in Riyadh as a Fiorentina fan

Quote (presenter): "At the moment when the public debate centres on stadiums and concerns a Serie A football club... that message is not always appropriate"

Comparison: Analogous event — Barelli (FI) states that the previous broadcast was "all hot air" (00:21:46) — Reaction: the presenter insists with questions but does not express judgements of appropriateness

Asymmetry: Documented — towards Renzi a judgement of political appropriateness is expressed; towards Barelli questions are asked but without analogous judgements

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 01:22:54

Triggering event: Murelli declares she does not wish to give the interview

Quote (presenter): "It concerns me that an Italian senator does not speak because a foreign state tells her not to speak"

Comparison: Analogous event — Renzi refuses to answer specific questions (01:04:04) — Reaction: no expression of concern for parliamentary sovereignty

Asymmetry: Documented — concern for sovereignty is expressed only towards Murelli (Lega) and not towards Renzi (IV)

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 01:11:46

Triggering event: Barelli states that the previous broadcast was "all hot air"

Quote (presenter): "We talked about Berlusconi's legacy, the party's deficits have in fact gone"

Comparison: Analogous event — Conte states he did not share the proposal for a three-country World Cup (01:51:51) — Reaction: the presenter accepts the answer without insisting

Asymmetry: Documented — towards Barelli (FI, government) the presenter insists and contradicts; towards Conte (M5S, opposition) the presenter accepts the answer

Summary: The presenter's behaviour shows documented asymmetries in the treatment of centre-right representatives (FI, Lega) compared to centre-left (M5S) and centre (IV) representatives; the asymmetries are consistent with the broadcast's editorial orientation.



13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

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Definition: Questions of varying hardness/softness to different people.

Asymmetry 1:

To Barelli (FI), 00:20:07: "I wanted to understand what we said that was untrue" — hard, direct, implies that FI must prove the falsity of the accusations

To Conte (M5S), 01:48:55: "There was a meeting, yes, with the FIFA president, Infantino. Was this World Cup hypothesis discussed?" — neutral, open, implies no accusations

Comparison: The question to Barelli presupposes that Report is right; the question to Conte is open and presupposes nothing.

Asymmetry 2:

To Renzi (IV), 01:03:56: "Were you ever asked, for example, to work with your international relations..." — implies a remunerated mediation role

To Gravina (FIGC), 01:51:32: "Was this World Cup hypothesis discussed?" — neutral, implies no accusations

Comparison: The question to Renzi implies a conflict of interest; the question to Gravina is purely informational.

Summary: The hardest and most presuppositional questions are reserved for centre-right representatives and Renzi; questions to centre-left representatives or to institutionally non-politically characterised figures are more open and less presuppositional.



14. FALSE BALANCE

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Definition: Artificial balance despite a real imbalance.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 01:11:58 — Construct: "On this we believe him without a shadow of a doubt" (referring to Renzi's denial of having put himself forward as a mediator)

Analysis: The broadcast states it believes Renzi on a specific point while implying his guilt on others; this creates an appearance of balance that masks the overall accusatory thesis.

Summary: False balance is present in a limited form; the broadcast does not systematically construct an artificial balance, but occasionally uses partial concessions to appear more balanced than it is.



15. AGENDA-SETTING

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Definition: What is taken for granted/normal? What does not enter the agenda?

Finding 1:

Agenda element set: Saudi Arabia as a fundamentally hostile actor towards Western values and human rights

Timestamp: 00:26:39 — Evidence: "It is considered the most credible interlocutor for resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and also that between Israel and Palestine" (said with an ironic tone, as a premise to the criticism)

Alternative agenda: Saudi Arabia's role as a necessary strategic partner for energy and geopolitical stability; Bin Salman's internal reforms; the comparison with other authoritarian regimes with which Italy maintains normal relations.

Finding 2:

Agenda element set: Arms sales as a morally reprehensible act regardless of the diplomatic context

Timestamp: 01:23:09 — Evidence: "In 2016 the Italian government signs an authorisation to sell bombs to Saudi Arabia"

Alternative agenda: The debate on Italian defence industrial policy; the comparison with arms sales by other European countries; the role of the defence industry in Italian employment.

Summary: Agenda-setting is one of the broadcast's most powerful tools; topics are framed in a way that makes the critical conclusion towards institutions appear natural, excluding from the agenda the perspectives that could complicate the picture.



CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Overview of Individual Scores

N.	Criterion	Type	Score	Main finding (1 sentence)
1	Expert selection	H	7	Experts are credible but are used to create implicit unproven associations
2	Source selection	H	6	High-value primary sources mixed with unverifiable anonymous testimonies
3	Time distribution	H	6	Critical voices receive 54% of the time; defensive voices 17%
4	Omissions	H	7	Systematic omissions of perspectives that could mitigate the accusations
5	Data manipulation	H	5	Data is used without the necessary comparative and temporal context
6	Guilt by association	H	8	Three documented cases of delegitimisation by association with negative elements
7	Timing	H	6	Timing is used to maximise the emotional impact of the broadcast's theses
8	Selective indignation	H	5	Documented asymmetry in the treatment of Murelli vs. Renzi on parliamentary sovereignty
9	Completeness	H	7	Structural omissions of alternative institutional and technical perspectives
10	Framing	S	7	The frame systematically presupposes the critical conclusion before the evidence is presented
11	Word choice	S	6	Advocacy terms used as neutral; aggressive statements reported in full to delegitimise
12	Presenter behaviour	S	7	Documented asymmetries in the treatment of centre-right vs. centre-left representatives
13	Question asymmetry	S	7	Presuppositional questions towards FI and Renzi; open questions towards Conte and Gravina
14	False balance	S	4	Present in a limited form; partial concessions to appear balanced
15	Agenda-Setting	S	7	The agenda systematically excludes perspectives that complicate the critical picture

Results

- HARDFACTS SCORE (Average criteria 1-9): 6.3 / 10
- SOFTFACTS SCORE (Average criteria 10-15): 6.3 / 10
- OVERALL SCORE (Average all 15 criteria): 6.3 / 10

Dominant Techniques



The 3 strongest techniques in this broadcast:

- 1. Guilt by Association (Score 8):** The broadcast systematically delegitimises the criticised subjects through associations with negative elements (Cordifin group's prior criminal record, Renzi's friendship with Bin Salman, Nuccia Albano's Mafia father) without demonstrating direct responsibility. This technique is particularly effective because it creates an impression of guilt that does not require direct evidence.
- 2. Framing (Score 7):** The narrative frame systematically presupposes the critical conclusion before the evidence is presented; terms such as "embarrassment that is being sought to be hidden" and "price to pay" orient the viewer towards a conclusion before the facts are assessed. The framing is consistent across all four investigations in the episode.
- 3. Omissions (Score 7):** The most significant omissions concern the institutional and technical perspectives that could mitigate the accusations; the Meloni government's position on arms sales, RMI's technical position on the landfill, and Yutong's position on the electric buses are not represented. The omissions are structural to the narrative thesis.

Key Messages of the Broadcast

****MESSAGE 1 (CONTENT):** ** "Italian institutions — government, regions, municipalities, parties — are systematically incapable or complicit in protecting citizens and democratic values"

Technique: Framing + Omissions — Evidence: 00:10:15, 01:38:45, 01:48:47

****MESSAGE 2 (PERSONAL):** ** "Italian politicians who maintain relations with Saudi Arabia compromise their integrity and national sovereignty"

Technique: Guilt by association + Question asymmetry — Evidence: 01:07:52, 01:22:54

****MESSAGE 3 (SOCIAL):** ** "Report's investigative journalism is the only bulwark against institutional corruption and foreign influence"

Technique: Agenda-setting + Presenter behaviour — Evidence: 00:17:20, 01:23:27

Classification of the Degree of Manipulation

Rationale: The overall score of 6.3/10 places the broadcast in the "Clear one-sidedness" category. The broadcast presents journalistic investigations on topics of significant public interest with verifiable documentation, but the framing techniques, systematic omissions, guilt by association and asymmetries in the presenter's behaviour constitute a clear editorial tendency. Under the RAI Service Contract Art. 6, which requires pluralism, completeness and impartiality of information, the broadcast presents significant shortcomings in completeness (3/10 in Step 2) and impartiality (documented asymmetries in criteria 8, 12, 13). The separation between news and commentary is not always respected, particularly in the narrative conclusions of the segments.

CONCLUSION

Report from the autumn 2023 period presents four journalistic investigations on topics of significant public interest — the Sorgà landfill, Forza Italia's finances, Saudi soft power, the Mestre viaduct — with partly verifiable documentation and high-value primary sources. However, the analysis according to the 15 criteria reveals a clear editorial one-sidedness (overall score 6.3/10) that manifests itself primarily through: systematic omissions of alternative institutional and technical perspectives; use of guilt by association to delegitimise the criticised subjects; framing that presupposes the critical conclusion before the evidence is presented; documented asymmetries in the presenter's behaviour and in the formulation of questions. Under the RAI Service Contract Art. 6, which requires pluralism, completeness and impartiality of information as well as the separation between news and commentary, the broadcast presents significant violations in the completeness of information — with a completeness score of 3/10 — and in the impartiality of the presentation. The broadcast is not without journalistic value, but does not meet the requirements of impartial public service required by the Service Contract.



OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual scores — All 15 criteria

N.	Criterion	Score	Classification
1	EXPERT SELECTION	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
2	SOURCE SELECTION	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
3	TIME DISTRIBUTION	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
4	SELECTIVE OMISSION	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
5	DATA MANIPULATION	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
6	GUILT BY ASSOCIATION	8/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
7	TIMING	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
8	SELECTIVE INDIGNATION	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
9	SELECTIVE OMISSION — OVERALL PICTURE	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
10	FRAMING	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
11	WORD AND TERM CHOICE	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
12	PRESENTER BEHAVIOUR	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
13	QUESTION ASYMMETRY	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
14	FALSE BALANCE	4/10	<i>Slight imbalance</i>
15	AGENDA-SETTING	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>

HARDFACTS SCORE (1-8)

6.3/10

Serious deviation from the principle of balance. High degree of deviation

SOFTFACTS SCORE (9-14)

6.3/10

Serious deviation from the principle of balance. High degree of deviation

OVERALL SCORE

6.3/10

Serious deviation from the principle of balance. High degree of deviation

Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts



LEGEND — Meaning of scores

Individual scores per criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant anomaly detected.
1–2	Weak finding	Minor anomaly with no substantial impact on balance.
3–4	Mild-moderate finding	Recognisable tendency; low to moderate impact relevance.
5	Moderate finding with impact	Relevant imbalance that influences the public's opinion-forming potential.
6	Significant finding (threshold)	Scores equal to or greater than 6 are classified as "significant findings".
7	Significant finding	Clear and well-documented imbalance with evident impact relevance.
8–9	Serious finding	Pronounced imbalance; multiple individual findings documented under this criterion.
10	Maximum severity	Systematic and pervasive imbalance under this criterion.

Aggregate deviation index — Interpretation ranges

0.0 – 2.5	No anomaly	No significant pattern detected; the broadcast respects the principle of balance.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated anomalies; statistically visible but still within the tolerance margin.
4.1 – 6.0	Considerable imbalance	Multiple significant findings; relevant compromise of the plurality of perspectives.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the principle of balance. High degree of deviation	Pronounced patterns across broadcasts; high impact relevance.
8.1 – 10	Maximum systemic partiality. Very high degree of bias	Maximum severity on almost all criteria; systematically one-sided coverage.

Political-partisan bias (from -5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	The party is significantly under-represented in framing, airtime or presentation.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognisable but slight disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No detectable favouritism or disadvantage.
+1 to +2	Slightly favoured	Recognisable but slight favouritism.
+3 to +5	Strongly favoured	The party is significantly over-represented in framing, airtime or presentation.



CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL FRAMEWORK (RAI Service Contract Art. 6)

Assessment under the RAI Service Contract Art. 6

The RAI Service Contract requires pluralism, completeness and impartiality of information, and separation between news and commentary.

Violation 1:

Norm: RAI Service Contract Art. 6 — Completeness of information

Facts: The broadcast systematically omits the institutional perspectives that could balance the accusations; in particular, the Meloni government's position on the reopening of arms sales to Saudi Arabia is cited in a single sentence and immediately refuted without a government representative being able to argue.

Evidence: Timestamp 01:38:45 — Quote: "Last May 31st, however, the executive led by Giorgia Meloni reopens arms sales to Saudi Arabia, justifying the decision with the signing of the Yemen ceasefire"

Assessment: Completeness of information requires that the positions of all relevant actors be adequately represented; reducing the government's position to a single sentence followed by an immediate refutation does not satisfy this requirement.

Violation 2:

Norm: RAI Service Contract Art. 6 — Impartiality of information

Facts: The presenter's behaviour shows documented asymmetries in the treatment of centre-right representatives (FI, Lega) compared to centre-left (M5S) and centre (IV) representatives; in particular, concern about "loss of parliamentary sovereignty" is expressed only towards Murelli (Lega) and not towards Renzi (IV) in comparable circumstances.

Evidence: Timestamp 01:22:54 — Quote: "It concerns me that an Italian senator does not speak because a foreign state tells her not to speak" — comparison with 01:04:04 where Renzi refuses questions without an analogous reaction from the presenter.

Assessment: Impartiality requires that comparable situations be treated in a comparable manner; the documented asymmetry constitutes a violation of the principle of impartiality.

Violation 3:

Norm: RAI Service Contract Art. 6 — Separation between news and commentary

Facts: The narrative conclusions of the segments systematically mix verifiable facts with unproven value judgements; in particular, the conclusion of the Saudi Arabia segment states that politicians "stay silent" in order to "not upset powerful allies" — a value judgement implying cowardice or corruption without direct evidence.

Evidence: Timestamp 01:40:16 — Quote: "We hope it is the considered choice of foreign policy and not the price to pay for not upsetting our, those who are considered powerful, allies."

Assessment: The separation between news and commentary requires that value judgements be clearly identified as such; the formulation "we hope it is... not the price to pay" mixes hope and implicit accusation without the viewer being able to distinguish between fact and opinion.

Overall Assessment RAI Service Contract Art. 6

The Report broadcast from the autumn 2023 period presents three documented violations of the RAI Service Contract Art. 6: (1) systematic incompleteness in the omission of alternative institutional and technical perspectives, with a completeness score of 3/10; (2) lack of impartiality in the presenter's behaviour, with documented asymmetries in the treatment of centre-right representatives compared to the centre-left; (3) failure to separate news from commentary in the narrative conclusions of the segments. These violations do not undermine the journalistic value of the investigations, which are partly based on verifiable documentation, but constitute a broadcast that does not meet the requirements of impartial public service required by the Service Contract. In the context of parliamentary oversight or



an appeal to AGCOM, the three violations documented with timestamps and direct quotation could form the basis for a formal challenge under the Service Contract.

IN-DEPTH SOURCE VERIFICATION (Mandatory for all specialised instances / NGOs / advisory centres cited)

1. Mwatana for Human Rights (Radia Al-Mutawakil)

- 1. FUNDING:** Yemeni human rights NGO; funding not specified in the transcript; probable international funders (Western foundations, European governments).
- 2. MANDATE:** Documentation of human rights violations in Yemen; advocacy mandate, not neutral by definition.
- 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Institutional interest in documenting violations to maintain relevance and funding; does not imply the falsity of the documentation.
 - D1 Interessenkonflikt: -1
 - D2 Persönliches Risiko: +2
 - D3 Fachkompetenz: +2
 - D4 Meinungskonsistenz: +1
 - D5 Emotionalisierung vs. Daten: +1
 - D6 Quellenstufe: +1
- 5. OPPOSING VOICE:** Not cited; a representative of the Saudi government or an expert in international humanitarian law could have contextualised the documentation.

2. Alcast (Lina Al-Hathloul)

- 1. FUNDING:** Civil rights defence organisation based in Brussels; funding not specified.
- 2. MANDATE:** Civil rights defence; advocacy mandate.
- 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Institutional interest in maintaining visibility of her sister's case; does not imply the falsity of the testimonies.
 - D1 Interessenkonflikt: -1
 - D2 Persönliches Risiko: +2
 - D3 Fachkompetenz: +1
 - D4 Meinungskonsistenz: +1
 - D5 Emotionalisierung vs. Daten: 0
 - D6 Quellenstufe: +1
- 5. OPPOSING VOICE:** Not cited; a representative of the Saudi government could have responded to the specific accusations.

3. Future Investment Initiative Institute (cited in relation to Renzi)

- 1. FUNDING:** Founded by Mohammed bin Salman; direct Saudi funding.
- 2. MANDATE:** Promotion of international investments in Saudi Arabia; promotional mandate, not neutral.
- 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Institutional interest in legitimising the Saudi regime through the participation of prominent international figures.
 - D1 Interessenkonflikt: -2
 - D2 Persönliches Risiko: 0
 - D3 Fachkompetenz: 0
 - D4 Meinungskonsistenz: 0
 - D5 Emotionalisierung vs. Daten: -1
 - D6 Quellenstufe: -1
- 5. OPPOSING VOICE:** Not cited; an expert in sovereign fund governance could have contextualised the institute's role.

IMPORTANT: "Recognised" is not an objective qualification. It is a social attribution that must itself be verified.

Source credibility traffic light:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
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Schweizerischer Verein für ausgewogene Berichterstattung
Association suisse pour une information équilibrée
Associazione svizzera per un reporting equilibrato

Mwatana for Human Rights (Radio Al-Mutawakil)	-1	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	?	?
Alcast (Lina Al-Hathloul)	-1	+2	+1	+1	0	+1	?	?
Future Investment Initiative Institute (cited in relation to Renzi)	-2	0	0	0	-1	-1	?	?

Legal and methodological framework

Not a determination of facts	The findings presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardised operationalisation, not a determination of individual responsibility.
Not a legal judgement	The aggregate deviation index does not replace a legal assessment under RAI Service Contract Art. 7. The assessment of whether a specific broadcast violates legal requirements falls exclusively within the competence of the relevant authorities (in particular AGCOM).
Not proof of causality	Statistical correlations must not be interpreted as proof of causal links or editorial intent. Deviation values may be influenced by the choice of topics, the information context, political controversy or the logic of the format.
Not a judgement on intentionality	The analysis measures the observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means that a significant imbalance has been detected — not that the editorial team intended it. The methodology makes no claims about motivations or strategic objectives.
Heuristic comparison tool	The index serves the comparative recognition of patterns across thousands of broadcasts, not the precise metric measurement of individual segments. The threshold values serve as heuristic guidance, not as precise legal qualification.



APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Legal basis Italy — RAI

Laws

- RAI Service Contract 2023-2028
- Legislative Decree 208/2021 — Consolidated Text of Audiovisual Media Services (TUSMA)
- Law 28/2000 — Par Condicio

Relevant articles

RAI Service Contract 2023-2028

- Art. 3: The public radio, television and multimedia service is characterised by pluralism, completeness, objectivity and impartiality of information.
- Art. 6: Quality obligations — plurality of opinions, balanced representation.
- Art. 25: Separation between information and opinion.

Legislative Decree 208/2021 (TUSMA)

- Art. 3: Fundamental principles — pluralism of opinions, objectivity, completeness.
- Art. 7: Radio and television news activity is guided by principles of objectivity, completeness, fairness, impartiality, openness to different opinions and political, social, cultural and religious tendencies.

Law 28/2000 (Par Condicio)

- Art. 2: Equal access to information media during electoral campaigns.
- Art. 3: Equal treatment of all political subjects in information.
- Art. 4: Prohibition of political advertising on public media outside electoral campaigns.

RAI Code of Ethics (2017)

Impartiality, fact-checking, separation of news/commentary.

European reference framework

- ECHR Art. 10: Freedom of expression (European Convention on Human Rights)
- EU Rule of Law Report: Annual assessment of media freedom in Italy
- RSF Press Freedom Index: Reporters Without Borders, annual ranking
- EMFA (European Media Freedom Act, 2024): EU minimum standards for media freedom
- Media Pluralism Monitor (EUI Florence): Annual assessment of media pluralism

Structural context

The "lottizzazione" — the historical division of RAI channels according to criteria of party proportionality — influences the structural independence of RAI to this day. The formal legal framework (Service Contract, TUSMA) is correct, but practical implementation is influenced by politics.

Supervisory authorities

- AGCOM (Authority for Communications Guarantees): Media regulation, sanctions
- Parliamentary RAI Supervisory Commission: Parliamentary oversight

Complaints procedure

1. RAI internal complaints office
2. AGCOM



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3. Regional Administrative Court (TAR)



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

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Assessments and membership of SVFAB

On SVFAB.ch you will find not only further detailed assessments, but you can also request customised ones for any broadcast (paid service).

To keep our work solid, we depend on the contributions of members and supporters.

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Unbalanced information is the response to the halving initiative in Switzerland: the manipulation techniques are illustrated in detail here, starting from the selection of personnel and sources. 15 principles are then illustrated: omission, framing, temporal framing, guilt by association, emotionalisation, decontextualisation and many others, with numerous examples. You also discover where we ourselves apply these techniques — which promotes not only awareness but also empathy.

Optionally the book includes **playing cards**

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An interview is not a conversation. It is a stage — and someone else wrote the script.

Those who do not know this provide material. Good quotes badly cut. Correct statements in the wrong context. Sincere answers framed as confessions.

This book is not a media criticism book. It is a toolkit — for all those who have a microphone in front of them and want to know what to do. 7 chapters. 7 tools: What an interview really is. The 7 most common traps. The three fundamental principles of sovereignty — anchor, reframe, delimit. Preparation in one hour. Body and voice. What to do when something goes wrong. And what counts after the interview. For politicians, activists, entrepreneurs, whistleblowers — for all those who are exposed and want to understand how the game works. To stop being subjected to it — and start shaping it.

In A5 format. Direct. For preparation, consultation, follow-up and in difficult moments



You think you see the world. In reality, you see the frame that someone has placed around it. Framing is the oldest and most elegant manipulation technique in the world. It does not change the facts — it changes what we make of the facts. What we feel. What we believe. How we decide. And it works — because we all participate. Every day. Unconsciously. You too. This book is not a dry manual. It is a workbook — playful, direct, full of examples from real life. You do not only learn how others frame you. You learn how you yourself frame — and how to use it consciously and correctly.

Because those who understand framing see the world more clearly. Listen to the news differently. Conduct conversations with more confidence. And can no longer so easily have a frame chosen by someone else imposed on them.

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With numerous exercises and concrete examples from politics, the media and everyday life — and a smile here and there.

Framing with style. Because the frame changes everything.



RAI receives over 1.7 billion euros per year from the compulsory licence fee. Those who feel they have been treated unfairly can file a complaint. There is even a dedicated authority: AGCOM, the Authority for Communications Guarantees.

Except that: it is not entirely independent. It has limited sanctioning powers. And in most cases the outcome is uncertain.

This analysis lays bare the system — objectively, with precision, without polemic. Procedures, personnel, competences, costs, statistics, legal avenues. And the legal examination that demonstrates the structural shortcomings of public media oversight. The body that should protect citizens protects above all the system it is supposed to oversee.

Essential reading for anyone considering a complaint — and for all those who want to understand why genuine media oversight in Italy has yet to be built.