



## RAI DETAILED ANALYSIS

2026-05-02\_tg1\_Recent\_TG1\_baseline\_3

Broadcast: RAI broadcast | 2026-05-02 | Analyzed on: 2026-05-24 11:52

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

**OVERALL  
SCORE**

**5.5/10**

*Considerable imbalance*

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly biased/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 detected party bias.

| 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)**

**6.2 / 10**

*Favourable to the right*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — [chesdata.eu](https://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 a centre-right coalition led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (Fdi). The coalition includes Fratelli d'Italia (Fdi), Lega, Forza Italia (FI) and Noi Moderati (NM). The opposition is composed mainly of Partito Democratico (PD), Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S), Alleanza Verdi Sinistra (AVS), Azione, Italia Viva (IV) and +Europa.

| 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)     | Minimum wage, pro-EU, ecological transition          |
| +Europa      | 3,80     | 2       | Opposition            | Strongly pro-European, liberal-progressive           |
| M5S          | 4,20     | 52      | Opposition            | Citizens' income, anti-corruption                    |
| Azione       | 4,90     | 21      | Opposition            | Liberal-reformist, centre                            |
| Italia Viva  | 5,00     | (in Az) | Opposition            | Liberal-centrist                                     |
| Noi Moderati | 5,80     | 7       | Government            | Christian-democratic, moderate                       |
| Forza Italia | 6,50     | 45      | Government            | Liberal-conservative, guarantism                     |
| Lega         | 8,10     | 66      | Government            | Sovereignist, flat tax, differentiated autonomy      |
| Fdi          | 8,30     | 119     | Government (PM)       | National-conservative, naval blockade, made in Italy |

The Italian political debate is traversed by four major fault lines: the economic question (minimum wage, tax burden, youth precariousness) which sets the government against the opposition; migration policy (naval blockade vs. humanitarian corridors); the Atlantic positioning and the relationship with Trump (with internal tensions within the majority itself); and the question of institutional stability, with the Meloni government reaching a longevity record as an element of political legitimation. 1 May 2025 — the date of the broadcast — amplifies the conflict over labour and workers' rights.

RAI is the Italian public broadcasting service, funded by the licence fee and subject to the Service Contract with the Ministry of Economy, which in Art. 6 imposes pluralism, completeness and impartiality of information, as well as the separation between news and commentary. Historically characterised by party-based allocation (RAI 1 DC/FI area, RAI 2 PSI area, RAI 3 PCI/PD area), under the Meloni government the TG1 directorship and the Board of Directors were appointed with the influence of the governing coalition. TG1 is the prime-time news programme with the largest national audience, which amplifies the impact of every editorial choice.



## CHAPTER 1 — PARTY BIAS

### Assessment by party

| Party                   | Score (-5..+5) | Representation in the broadcast vs. programmatic position  |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| Fdl (Fratelli d'Italia) | +2             | 00:17:17 "We will press ahead with determination to complete the path we have embarked upon" — Programmatic position: stability, employment, made in Italy — The broadcast reports the government's longevity record without critical contextualisation; Fdl's positions on employment and immigration are presented through majority statements without independent verification — partially correct, with critical omissions |
| PD (Partito Dem.)       | +1             | 00:18:24 "On tariffs Meloni stays silent so as not to upset Trump, Schlein accuses" — Programmatic position: minimum wage, pro-EU, decent work — Schlein's criticism is reported but in summary form and without elaboration; the proposal of the Spanish model is mentioned briefly — correct but superficial   |
| M5S (Cinque Stelle)     | +1             | 00:18:47 "Zero growth and record tax burden the critical points indicated by the 5 Stars" — Programmatic position: defence of citizens' income, anti-corruption, anti-tax evasion — The criticism of the excise duty cut as a "propaganda measure" is reported; references to citizens' income and social policies are missing — correct but incomplete  |
| Lega                    | +1             | 00:18:09 "Lega invites the use of resources to support families and businesses even by derogating from the stability pact" — Programmatic position: flat tax, differentiated autonomy, closed ports — Only the economic position is cited; positions on immigration and differentiated autonomy are absent — partially correct   |
| Forza Italia            | +1             | 00:17:53 "Work is central for Forza Italia. The new decree, it states, will guarantee more rights, more opportunities and more protections" — Programmatic position: liberal, guarantism, pro-market — Generic quotation without elaboration of specific positions — superficial   |
| AVS (Alleanza Verdi)    | 0              | No direct quotation of AVS in the broadcast — Programmatic position: 100% renewables, ius soli, wealth tax, anti-fascism — absent  |

### Summary of Party Bias

- Most accurate representation: PD (Score +1) — Schlein's criticism is reported with a direct quotation
- Greatest distortion: AVS (Score 0) — completely absent despite being a parliamentary opposition force
- Average deviation from 0: 1.0
- Conclusion: The broadcast devotes significant space to the narrative of the Meloni government (longevity record, labour decree, excise duty cut) through majority statements reported in a predominantly uncritical form. The opposition parties are cited in a summary and reactive manner, without elaboration of alternative proposals. AVS is completely absent. 1 May — Labour Day — would have required a more balanced representation of trade union positions and left-wing forces.



## CHAPTER 2 — BROADCAST INFORMATION AND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

### Broadcast Data

- Title: TG1 — Evening edition
- Date (from file): 1 May 2025 (Workers' Day)
- Duration (estimated from transcript): approximately 36 minutes
- Presenter: Not identified by name in the transcript (presenter's voice present)
- Correspondents and reporters: Paola Colombo (Noventa Padovana), Anna Milan, Alessandra Barone (sport), Laura Pepe (US correspondent), Giorgio Demetrio (Germany/Trump report), Monia Venturini (Cuba), Sergio Paini (Iran correspondent), Andrea Lucchetta (military AI), Maria Gianniti (Lebanon/Israel correspondent), Francesco Maisano (Palazzo Chigi), Carlo Maria Miele (domestic politics), Andrea Bovio (history of governments), Michela Palmieri (housing bonus), Elena Fusai (Salerno news), Giambito Cafaro (Bisceglie), Roberta Ferrari (Garlasco case), Elena De Vincenzo (ricin case), Lorenzo Santorelli (Monte Faeta fire), Simona Giampaoli (tourism), Anna Paola Ricci (Afghan footballers), Flavia Lorenzoni (Shakira/Copacabana), Alfredo Ranavolo (Harley Davidson Senigallia)

| Person                        | Role                       | Party/Affiliation | Political spectrum |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Giorgia Meloni                | Prime Minister             | Fdi               | Right              |
| Elly Schlein                  | PD Secretary               | PD                | Centre-left        |
| FI representative (unnamed)   | Member of Parliament       | Forza Italia      | Centre-right       |
| Lega representative (unnamed) | Member of Parliament       | Lega              | Right              |
| Lupi (Noi Moderati)           | Member of Parliament       | NM                | Centre-right       |
| M5S representative (unnamed)  | Member of Parliament       | M5S               | Centre-left        |
| Giancarlo Minardi             | Former F1 team owner       | None              | —                  |
| Gianmarco Tamberi             | Athlete                    | None              | —                  |
| Valerio De Gioia              | Court of Appeal Councillor | None              | —                  |
| Sal Da Vinci                  | Singer                     | None              | —                  |
| Malala Yousafzai              | Nobel Prize laureate       | None              | —                  |

### Main Topic

The TG1 of 1 May 2025 covers the death of Alex Zanardi, the geopolitical tensions linked to Trump's decisions (troop withdrawal from Germany, tariffs, Cuba, Iran), the domestic political debate on the labour decree and the longevity record of the Meloni government, and a series of news items on current affairs, lifestyle and sport.

### Context of the Debate

1 May is International Workers' Day, a day traditionally dedicated to labour rights, trade union demands and the debate on employment conditions. In Italy, the Meloni government approved a "labour decree" on this very date, a symbolically significant choice that fits into the debate on the minimum wage, youth precariousness and employment policies. At the same time, the government reaches the record of being the second longest-serving executive in the Republic, an element used by the majority as an argument for legitimization. On the international front, Trump's



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato

decisions are creating tensions within the Atlantic alliance and raising questions about European security. The broadcast is therefore situated at a moment of high political density, in which editorial choices carry a particularly high specific weight.



## CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS

### Hardfacts — 9 quantifiable and scientifically verifiable techniques

#### 1. EXPERT SELECTION

7/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Definition: Who speaks as an expert?*

Expert 1: Valerio De Gioia — Court of Appeal Councillor

Timestamp: 00:25:32

Statement: "There are two options. Either the case is archived or a committal for trial may be ordered."

Framing: Serving magistrate, cited as a legal expert on the Garlasco/Sempio case

Missing opposing voice: A defence lawyer or a criminal procedure expert with a different position would have balanced the perspective

In-depth source verification:

**(a) FUNDING:** Italian State magistrate — public funding. No direct financial conflict of interest, but institutionally part of the judicial system being discussed.

**(b) MANDATE:** Compatible with a technical procedural assessment; less compatible with assessments on the merits of the specific case.

**(c) CREDIBILITY MATRIX (Source Traffic Light, 6 dimensions):**

D1 Conflict of interest: +1 — Public magistrate, no direct economic interest, but institutionally part of the system

D2 Personal risk: +1 — Technical statements, low personal risk

D3 Expertise: +2 — Expert in criminal procedural law, direct area of competence

D4 Consistency of opinions: +1 — Not verifiable from transcript, but standard technical statements

D5 Emotionality vs. data: +2 — Technical statements, based on procedural rules

D6 Source level: +2 — Primary source (direct expert)

• TOTAL: +9 → TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN

**(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE:** The presentation as a neutral expert is substantially correct for procedural matters; however the broadcast does not present a voice from Sempio's defence.

Expert 2: Anonymous military source (cited in the military AI report)

Timestamp: 00:13:03

Statement: "Artificial intelligence allows you to merge tens and tens, thousands of pieces of information."

Framing: Unidentified source, presented as a military expert

Missing opposing voice: AI ethics expert, civilian researcher, representative of human rights organisations

In-depth source verification:

**(a) FUNDING:** Not identifiable — anonymous source. Potential conflict of interest with the defence sector.

**(b) MANDATE:** Not verifiable — anonymous source.

**(c) CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**

D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Anonymous source, potentially linked to the military-industrial sector

D2 Personal risk: -1 — Anonymity reduces personal risk, therefore reduces credibility



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato

- D3 Expertise: +1 — Presumably a military expert, but not verifiable
- D4 Consistency of opinions: -2 — Not verifiable
- D5 Emotionality vs. data: 0 — Technical statements but not documented
- D6 Source level: -2 — Tertiary source (anonymous, not verifiable)

• TOTAL: -6 → TRAFFIC LIGHT: RED

**(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE:** The source is presented as authoritative without identification, which is methodologically problematic.

Expert 3: Andrea Lucchetta — TG1 Reporter

Timestamp: 00:12:47

Statement: report on military AI

Framing: RAI journalist presented as the author of the report, not as an independent expert

Missing opposing voice: No independent external expert is cited in the report

In-depth source verification:

**(a) FUNDING:** RAI — public service under governmental influence

**(b) MANDATE:** Journalist, not an expert in AI or military ethics

**(c) CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**

- D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — RAI under governmental influence
- D2 Personal risk: 0 — Journalist in service, standard professional risk
- D3 Expertise: -1 — Not an expert in military AI
- D4 Consistency of opinions: 0 — Not verifiable
- D5 Emotionality vs. data: +1 — Predominantly descriptive report
- D6 Source level: 0 — Secondary source

• TOTAL: -1 → TRAFFIC LIGHT: YELLOW

*Missing expert groups:*

- Independent economists to verify employment data
- Trade unionists (CGIL, CISL, UIL) for 1 May
- International law experts for geopolitical issues

*Summary (matrix result per expert):*

- De Gioia: GREEN (+9) — technically reliable source for procedural matters
- Anonymous military source: RED (-6) — unverifiable source, potential conflict of interest
- Lucchetta: YELLOW (-1) — RAI journalist, not an independent expert



## 2. SOURCE SELECTION

6/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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

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

Source 1: Bloomberg (cited in the Iran report)

Timestamp: 00:12:25

Statement: "according to Bloomberg, Iran, precisely because of the difficulties created by the naval blockade in storage, would have reduced its oil production"

**(a) Funding and ownership:** Bloomberg LP — US private financial media, pro-market orientation, strong presence in the financial sector

**(b) Structural conflict of interest:** Bloomberg has interests in the oil and financial market; the news about the reduction in Iranian production has direct implications for the markets

**(c) Missing opposing source:** No Iranian or independent source to verify the oil production data

Source 2: Italian government statements (Meloni, majority representatives)

Timestamp: 00:17:17–00:18:20

Statement: "Record employment, lower taxes, collapse in landings and international centrality"

**(a) Funding:** Governing political parties — institutional source with a direct interest in the narrative

**(b) Structural conflict of interest:** The government has a direct interest in presenting its results in a favourable light

**(c) Missing opposing source:** Independent ISTAT data, Bank of Italy analyses, OECD reports

Rumour check (penalties):

Rumour 1:

Timestamp: 00:12:25

Claim: "according to Bloomberg, Iran [...] would have reduced its oil production"

Linguistic marker: "would have" — conditional indicating unverified news

Primary source available: no — Penalty +1

Rumour 2:

Timestamp: 00:09:18

Claim: "Trump's decision comes after the statements of Chancellor Merz, who had spoken of war, tower and war. His reaction is totally unnecessary, of humiliation at the expense of Washington on the part of Iran, of absence of strategy."

Linguistic marker: attribution to Trump without verifiable direct quotation

Primary source available: partial — Penalty +0.5

*Summary: The broadcast relies predominantly on Italian government sources and Anglo-Saxon media (Bloomberg) without independent verification; opposing sources are systematically absent.*



|                             |          |          |          |          |          |   |   |   |             |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|---|---|-------------|
| <b>3. TIME DISTRIBUTION</b> |          |          |          |          |          |   |   |   | <b>6/10</b> |
| <b>1</b>                    | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10          |

*Definition: Distribution of speaking time among different positions.*

Estimated speaking time:

- Alex Zanardi / sporting tributes: approx. 7 min. (19%)
- Meloni government / majority (statements, reports): approx. 5 min. (14%)
- Geopolitics Trump/Germany/Cuba/Iran: approx. 5 min. (14%)
- Current affairs (Salerno, Bisceglie, Garlasco, ricin, fire): approx. 7 min. (19%)
- Opposition (PD, M5S, Lega criticism): approx. 1.5 min. (4%)
- Military AI: approx. 2 min. (6%)
- Israel/Lebanon/flotilla: approx. 2 min. (6%)
- Tourism/lifestyle/sport (Harley, Shakira, FIFA): approx. 5 min. (14%)
- Presenter/transitions: approx. 2 min. (6%)

*Summary: The government and the majority receive approximately 3.5 times more speaking time than the opposition; on a day symbolically dedicated to labour, trade union and workers' voices are completely absent.*



#### 4. SELECTIVE OMISSION

8/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Definition: What is not shown despite being relevant?*

Omission 1:

Context: Total absence of trade union voices on 1 May

Relevant at: 00:17:00–00:18:58 (labour decree and domestic politics report)

Effect: Labour Day is reduced to a parliamentary government-opposition confrontation, excluding the social actors (trade unions, workers, associations) who are historically the protagonists of 1 May. This creates the impression that the labour debate is exclusively institutional.

Omission 2:

Context: Absence of independent data on "record employment"

Relevant at: 00:17:46 "Record employment, lower taxes, collapse in landings"

Effect: The government's claim of "record employment" is reported without verification. Available ISTAT data show that the increase in employment is concentrated in fixed-term and involuntary part-time contracts, an element mentioned only marginally by Schlein (00:18:36) without elaboration.

Omission 3:

Context: Absence of historical context in the Cuba report

Relevant at: 00:10:08–00:11:28

Effect: The report presents the US sanctions as a response to "Trump's imperialist threats" without contextualising the decades-long American embargo on Cuba, its documented humanitarian consequences, and the international debate on its legality. This creates a partial picture of the Cuban crisis.

*Summary: The most significant omissions concern trade union voices on 1 May and the failure to verify government claims on employment; these omissions produce a systematic effect of reinforcing the government narrative.*

#### Missing voices

- CGIL Secretary (Maurizio Landini or representative): Would have provided the trade union perspective on the labour decree on 1 May, with data on precariousness and the minimum wage
- Independent economist (e.g. from a public university): Would have verified the data on "record employment" and the tax burden cited by the majority and the opposition
- Representative of humanitarian organisations (UNHCR, MSF): Would have contextualised the situation of civilians in Lebanon and the flotilla crisis
- International law expert: Would have analysed the legality of the Israeli naval blockade and US sanctions on Cuba
- Independent AI ethics researcher: Would have elaborated on the ethical implications of military AI with a critical, data-based perspective
- Representative of the Bangladeshi community in Italy: Would have contextualised the Salerno news story within the broader framework of the conditions of migrant communities
- Independent energy policy expert: Would have analysed the excise duty cut and its long-term fiscal implications
- Representative of tenants' associations: Would have assessed the 100,000-housing plan and the separated parents' bonus with data on the real housing emergency



## 5. DATA MANIPULATION

5/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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

*Definition: Selective or misleading use of statistics.*

### Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:17:46

Data: "Record employment, lower taxes, collapse in landings and international centrality"

Dimensions: (a) absolute value — not provided; (b) share — not provided; (c) trend — not provided

Missing context: No ISTAT data, no distinction between stable and precarious employment, no comparison with the European average

Effect: The claim "record employment" is presented as a verified fact, whereas it is a political statement not documented in the broadcast.

### Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:19:24

Data: "68 governments in 80 years [...] one every 14 months"

Dimensions: (a) absolute value — provided; (b) share — provided (average); (c) trend — provided (historical comparison)

Missing context: The data is used to highlight the longevity of the Meloni government without contextualising that formal stability does not necessarily equate to governmental effectiveness

Effect: The longevity record is presented as an absolute positive indicator, without analysis of the quality of governmental action.

### Finding 3:

Timestamp: 00:18:58

Data: "Under the Meloni government, banks and energy companies have made profits of 200 billion euros while poverty is increasing"

Dimensions: (a) absolute value — provided (200 billion); (b) share — not provided; (c) trend — not provided

Missing context: The figure of 200 billion is not verified with a primary source; the reference period and the source are unclear

Effect: The figure is presented as a fact without verification, which is problematic even when it comes from the opposition.

*Summary: The broadcast reports quantitative claims from both the majority and the opposition without systematic verification with independent sources; the most problematic figure is the government's "record employment", presented without documentation.*



## 6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

2/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Definition: Discrediting by association with negative groups or ideas.*

Association 1:

Timestamp: 00:15:23

Quotation: "They are suspected of illegal actions and links with terrorist organisations, the Israeli Foreign Ministry announced"

**Technique:** The Israeli government's statement about the flotilla activists is reported without immediate rebuttal; the accusation of "links with terrorist organisations" is attributed to a government source but presented in a way that could be perceived as fact

**Effect:** The flotilla activists are associated with terrorism through the Israeli statement, without the broadcast verifying or contextualising the accusation

Verification for negatively framed persons:

- The flotilla activists are not framed as "conspiracy theorists" but as terrorism suspects according to Israeli sources
- They work with verifiable sources (physical presence on the ship, documentation of the mission)
- Their statements about the abuses suffered are reported (00:15:57: "They denounced abuses by Israeli soldiers")
- CATEGORY: B — Partially documented case, with unverified accusations from the Israeli side and unverified complaints from the activists

*Summary: The most relevant case of potential guilt by association concerns the flotilla activists, where the Israeli accusation of "links with terrorist organisations" is reported without adequate rebuttal.*



## 7. TIMING

5/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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

### Finding 1:

Position: 00:01:34 (opening)

Content: "farewell to Alex Zanardi, the champion who taught us never to give up"

Timing effect: Opening with the death of Zanardi — a universally beloved and apolitical figure — creates a positive and unifying emotional atmosphere that sets the stage for the subsequent reports. The choice to open with an emotionally engaging story before the political news is a well-established technique of attention management.

### Finding 2:

Position: 00:17:11–00:20:45 (middle of broadcast)

Content: Longevity record of the Meloni government, labour decree, majority statements

Timing effect: The political block is placed in the central part of the broadcast, after the emotional engagement for Zanardi and the international news, at a moment of maximum viewer attention. The report on the longevity record (00:19:11) immediately follows the government statements, creating a narrative reinforcement effect.

### Finding 3:

Position: 00:29:38–00:36:29 (closing)

Content: Harley Davidson Senigallia, tourism, Shakira, RAI programmes

Timing effect: Closing with lifestyle and entertainment news creates a "normalisation" and feel-good effect that attenuates the impact of the preceding critical news (crime, geopolitics). The promotion of the RAI programme "Dalla strada al palco" (00:36:09) at the close is an element of corporate self-promotion.

*Summary: The structure of the broadcast follows a calculated emotional arc: emotional opening (Zanardi), international news, political block favourable to the government, current affairs, light closing; this sequence maximises the impact of the government narrative.*



## 8. SELECTIVE OUTRAGE

3/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Outrage = bias. Selective outrage amplifies the result. Score = degree of outrage (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)*

*Definition: Outrage towards certain positions but not towards comparable ones.*

*Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment it is necessary to document the triggering event. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if comparable events in other positions have not produced an analogous reaction.*

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:09:53

Triggering event: Trump's statement on European tariffs

Reaction: "false and unacceptable, Brussels thunders"

Comparison: Trump's statements on the troop withdrawal (00:08:56) are reported without analogous emotional adjectives

Asymmetry: The term "thunders" attributes an emotional intensity to the European response that is not present in the description of the other reactions; however the asymmetry is limited and not systematic

Degree of outrage: 2/5

Selectivity: 1/5

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:10:36

Triggering event: Trump's statement on Cuba ("We will take control of Cuba")

Reaction: The report describes the sanctions as "new sanctions against the island already strangled by the crisis" — emotional adjective ("strangled")

Comparison: The policies of the Cuban government are not described with analogous adjectives

Asymmetry: Partial — the description of the Cuban situation is sympathetic towards the population, but not towards the Cuban government

Degree of outrage: 1/5

Selectivity: 1/5

*Summary: No systematic selective outrage is detected in the broadcast; the asymmetries present are limited and do not constitute a coherent pattern.*



## 9. SELECTIVE OMISSION — GENERAL FRAMEWORK

8/10

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: 00:17:00–00:18:58

Missing perspective/fact: Trade union voices on 1 May

Relevance: 1 May is International Workers' Day; CGIL, CISL and UIL organise national demonstrations with hundreds of thousands of participants; their positions on the labour decree are directly relevant

Impact: The absence of trade union voices transforms the labour debate into an exclusively parliamentary confrontation, excluding the social actors who represent millions of workers

### Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:14:36–00:16:18

Missing perspective/fact: Complete Israeli position and context of international law on the flotilla

Relevance: The Israeli naval blockade and the detention of activists raise questions of international law (freedom of navigation, humanitarian law) that are not addressed

Impact: The broadcast presents the affair as a clash between activists and the Israeli government without the legal framework necessary for an informed assessment

### Finding 3:

Timestamp: 00:16:47–00:17:14

Missing perspective/fact: Independent critical analysis of the housing plan and the separated parents' bonus

Relevance: The 100,000-housing plan and the 60-million bonus are government measures that require verification of financial coverage and expected effectiveness

Impact: The measures are presented as government announcements without independent verification of their feasibility and real impact

*Summary: The most serious omissions concern trade union voices on 1 May and the failure to independently verify government measures; these omissions produce a systematic effect of reinforcing the government narrative.*

### Share of perspectives covered

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

- [A] Position of trade unions (CGIL, CISL, UIL) on the labour decree and the employment situation on 1 May
- [B] Independent data on the quality of work (precariousness, real wages, fixed-term contracts) to verify government claims on "record employment"
- [C] Position of migrant workers' organisations, particularly relevant in the Salerno news story (Bangladeshi couple)
- [D] Independent economic analysis of the government's fiscal policies (excise duty cut, tax burden)
- [E] Perspective of civilian victims in Israeli bombardments in Lebanon, not only the Israeli position
- [F] Complete Iranian position on the nuclear negotiations, not only the version filtered through US sources
- [G] Independent ethical analysis of the use of military AI, with critical voices from civil society
- [H] Cuban perspective on the historical context of US sanctions, not only the immediate reaction
- [I] Opposition voices on the housing plan and the separated parents' bonus (access criteria, financial coverage)



**Schweizerischer Verein für ausgewogene Berichterstattung**  
**Association suisse pour une information équilibrée**  
**Associazione svizzera per un reporting equilibrato**

[J] Perspective of entertainment and culture workers in the report on Senigallia/Eurovision

**[A] ABSENT**

Timestamp: — — Quotation: none — Assessment: Trade unions are completely absent in a TG1 broadcast on 1 May; no voice from CGIL, CISL or UIL is present despite the occasion and the labour decree.

**[B] ABSENT**

Timestamp: — — Quotation: none — Assessment: The "record employment" data cited by the majority (00:17:46) are not verified with independent sources (ISTAT, Bank of Italy, OECD).

**[C] ABSENT**

Timestamp: — — Quotation: none — Assessment: In the report on the Bangladeshi couple (00:22:09) there is no contextualisation of the conditions of migrant communities in Italy.

**[D] PARTIALLY ADDRESSED**

Timestamp: 00:18:47 — Quotation: "Zero growth and record tax burden the critical points indicated by the 5 Stars" — Assessment: The criticism is reported but without verification with independent data.

**[E] PARTIALLY ADDRESSED**

Timestamp: 00:14:51 — Quotation: "today too there were civilian casualties" — Assessment: Civilian casualties are mentioned but not elaborated upon; the perspective of humanitarian organisations is missing.

**[F] PARTIALLY ADDRESSED**

Timestamp: 00:11:57 — Quotation: "Iran, in fact, was offering a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz" — Assessment: The Iranian proposal is cited but the historical context of the sanctions and the Iranian perspective are absent.

**[G] PARTIALLY ADDRESSED**

Timestamp: 00:13:55 — Quotation: "The more the use of AI grows, the more inescapable the ethical dilemma at its core becomes" — Assessment: The ethical dilemma is mentioned but the critical voices of civil society and human rights organisations are absent.

**[H] ABSENT**

Timestamp: — — Quotation: none — Assessment: The historical context of the US embargo on Cuba and its humanitarian consequences are not addressed.

**[I] PARTIALLY ADDRESSED**

Timestamp: 00:18:21 — Quotation: "And it is precisely on the economy that the opposition attacks" — Assessment: The opposition's criticisms of the labour decree and the housing plan are reported in summary form without elaboration.

**[J] ABSENT**

Timestamp: — — Quotation: none — Assessment: The report on Senigallia and Eurovision does not include voices from entertainment workers or analysis of working conditions in the sector.

### Completeness Score: 3/10

**Rationale:** The broadcast systematically omits trade union voices on a day dedicated to labour, does not verify government claims on employment with independent sources, and addresses international perspectives (Iran, Cuba, Lebanon) in a predominantly one-sided manner. The few critical perspectives present are superficial and not elaborated upon.

**Bloomberg (cited in the Iran report, 00:12:25)**

**Präsident:** Schläpfer, David - **Kontakt:** [kontakt@SVFAB.ch](mailto:kontakt@SVFAB.ch) - **Adresse:** SVFAB, Postfach, CH-8021 Zürich 1



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato

1. **FUNDING:** Bloomberg LP — private company founded by Michael Bloomberg; revenues mainly from Bloomberg financial terminals and information services for the financial sector. Private funding with a strong orientation towards financial markets.
2. **MANDATE:** Financial and general news media; the mandate is compatible with coverage of news on Iranian oil, but the orientation towards financial markets can influence the selection and framing of news.
3. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Bloomberg has structural interests in the oil and financial market; news about the reduction in Iranian production has direct implications for oil prices and financial markets, creating a potential conflict of interest.
4. **CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**
  - D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — Interests in the oil market
  - D2 Personal risk: +1 — Media with a reputation to defend
  - D3 Expertise: +2 — Expert in financial and oil markets
  - D4 Consistency: +1 — Media with verifiable editorial standards
  - D5 Emotionality vs. data: +2 — Predominantly data-based
  - D6 Source level: 0 — Secondary source (not a primary Iranian source)
  - TOTAL: +5 → TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN (but with reservation for the structural conflict of interest)
5. **OPPOSING VOICE:** No Iranian or independent source is cited to verify the oil production data; OPEC or the International Energy Agency would have provided more neutral data.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** "Recognised" is not an objective qualification. It is a social attribution that must be verified according to the criteria indicated above. Bloomberg is a reliable media outlet for financial data, but it is not a neutral source on geopolitical issues that have implications for financial markets.



## Softfacts — 6 qualitative techniques

### 10. FRAMING

6/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Definition: How is the topic fundamentally framed?*

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:17:24

Quotation: "the Prime Minister said today regarding the executive which is becoming the second longest-serving government in the history of the Republic"

Manipulation: The longevity of the government is framed as a positive result and as an indicator of stability, without the broadcast problematising the distinction between duration and quality of governmental action

Why problematic: The viewer is induced to automatically associate "long-lived government" with "effective government", an equation that is not necessarily true and that benefits the government narrative

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:08:47

Quotation: "Donald Trump drags to the dock those countries that would not have supported him in the conflict against Iran"

Manipulation: The metaphor of the "dock" frames Trump as judge and the European countries as defendants, implicitly adopting the Trumpian perspective

Why problematic: The framing legitimises Trump's position as a normative reference point, instead of presenting the situation as a conflict between different political positions

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 00:01:34

Quotation: "farewell to Alex Zanardi, the champion who taught us never to give up"

Manipulation: Opening with Zanardi frames the entire broadcast in an emotional register of resilience and optimism that can influence the reception of subsequent news

Why problematic: The initial emotional framing can reduce the viewer's critical capacity with regard to the political news that follows

*Summary: The most significant framing concerns the presentation of governmental longevity as an absolute positive value and the adoption of the Trumpian perspective in the description of transatlantic tensions.*



## 11. WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY

5/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:08:47

Quotation: "Donald Trump drags those countries to the dock"

Manipulation: "Dock" is a judicial metaphor that attributes guilt to the European countries by adopting Trump's point of view

Why problematic: A neutral alternative would be: "Trump criticises the European countries that did not support the operation against Iran"

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:10:23

Quotation: "the slogans against Trump's new imperialist threats"

Manipulation: "Imperialist threats" is the language of Cuban propaganda, reported without quotation marks or critical distance

Why problematic: The broadcast adopts the Cuban ideological frame without signalling it as such; neutral alternative: "the slogans against Trump's policies"

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 00:14:42

Quotation: "despite this alleged truce"

Manipulation: "Alleged" casts doubt on the Israeli-Lebanese truce, which is technically correct but creates a connotation of scepticism towards ceasefire agreements

Why problematic: The term "alleged" is used asymmetrically — it is not applied with the same frequency to Israeli statements about military operations

*Summary: The word choices reveal asymmetries in the treatment of different geopolitical positions; the most problematic metaphors concern the description of US-Europe and US-Cuba tensions.*



## 12. PRESENTER BEHAVIOUR

3/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Definition: Asymmetries in questions, interruptions, expressions of sympathy.*

*Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment it is necessary to document the triggering event. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if comparable events with other guests have not produced an analogous intervention.*

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:11:39

Triggering event: The presenter asks the correspondent in Tehran for updates

Quotation (presenter): "Sergio, what reactions are there?"

Comparison: The same formula is used with other correspondents (00:07:55 "Over to you, update us"; 00:14:36 "Maria, update us")

Asymmetry: Not detectable — the presenter uses standard formulas with all correspondents

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 00:17:30

Triggering event: Transition to the domestic political report

Quotation (presenter): "Carlo Maria Miele, over to you"

Comparison: The transition to the political report does not include critical questions either to the Palazzo Chigi correspondent or to the political correspondent

Asymmetry: The presenter does not pose critical questions about government claims, while there are no opposition guests in the studio to whom direct questions could be put — the very structure of the broadcast prevents rebuttal

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 00:30:27

Triggering event: Interview with Sal Da Vinci at the Harley rally

Quotation (presenter/reporter): "But are you a Harley rider and a motorcyclist?"

Comparison: Entertainment question, not comparable with the political context

Asymmetry: Not applicable

*Summary: The presenter's behaviour does not show evident asymmetries in direct interactions; the main problem is structural — the broadcast does not feature studio guests with different positions, eliminating the possibility of real rebuttal.*



### 13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

4/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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

#### Asymmetry 1:

To the Palazzo Chigi correspondent (Francesco Maisano), 00:16:51: no critical questions — the correspondent reports the government measures without the presenter posing verification questions — soft/absent

To the political correspondent (Carlo Maria Miele), 00:17:30: no critical questions — the correspondent reports the majority and opposition statements without elaboration — soft/absent

Comparison: The structure of the broadcast does not provide for critical questions to political correspondents; government statements are reported without verification, while opposition criticisms are reported without elaboration. The asymmetry lies not in the questions asked but in the systematic absence of critical questions towards the government.

#### Asymmetry 2:

To the Tehran correspondent (Sergio Painsi), 00:11:39: "Sergio, what reactions are there?" — open, non-critical question — neutral

To the Washington correspondent (Laura Pepe), 00:07:55: "Over to you, update us" — open, non-critical question — neutral

Comparison: Questions to foreign correspondents are uniformly open and non-critical; no asymmetry between different geographical areas is detected.

*Summary: The main asymmetry does not concern the hardness of questions to different correspondents, but the systematic absence of critical questions towards government statements, in contrast with the lack of elaboration of opposition proposals.*



#### 14. FALSE BALANCE

4/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Definition: Artificial balance despite a real imbalance.*

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 00:17:38–00:19:08

Construction: "The majority underlines the stability of the executive [...] And it is precisely on the economy that the opposition attacks"

Analysis: The structure "majority says X, opposition says Y" creates an appearance of balance, but the time devoted to majority statements (approximately 3 minutes) is markedly greater than that of the opposition (approximately 1.5 minutes). Furthermore, majority statements are presented as facts ("record employment") while those of the opposition are presented as attacks ("the opposition attacks"), creating a semantic asymmetry.

*Summary: The formal "majority vs. opposition" structure creates an appearance of balance that masks a real asymmetry in speaking time and in the semantic treatment of statements.*



## 15. AGENDA-SETTING

7/10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

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

### Finding 1:

Agenda item set: The longevity of the government as a positive value

Timestamp: 00:17:24 — Evidence: "the Prime Minister said today regarding the executive which is becoming the second longest-serving government in the history of the Republic"

Alternative agenda: The quality of governmental action, measurable results against programmatic objectives, comparison with electoral promises

### Finding 2:

Agenda item set: 1 May as the day of the government labour decree, not as Workers' Day

Timestamp: 00:16:54 — Evidence: "It has arrived together with the plan for 100,000 homes over the next 10 years, the labour decree with the fair wage and the bonuses"

Alternative agenda: The trade union demonstrations on 1 May, workers' demands, data on employment precariousness

### Finding 3:

Agenda item set: Military AI as a tool of operational efficiency

Timestamp: 00:13:17 — Evidence: "Artificial intelligence is now indispensable. It synthesises enormous volumes of information, simplifies decision-making processes"

Alternative agenda: The ethical and legal implications of AI in lethal decisions, the international debate on human control in autonomous weapons, the positions of human rights organisations

*Summary: The most significant agenda-setting concerns the redefinition of 1 May as the day of the government decree rather than as Workers' Day, and the presentation of governmental longevity as an indicator of success.*



## CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL ASSESSMENT

### Overview of Individual Scores

| No. | Criterion            | Type | Score | Main finding (1 sentence)  |
|-----|----------------------|------|-------|--|
| 1   | Expert selection     | H    | 7     | Anonymous military source with RED traffic light; total absence of trade union experts on 1 May          |
| 2   | Source selection     | H    | 6     | Prevalence of government sources and Bloomberg without independent verification; two undocumented claims |
| 3   | Time distribution    | H    | 6     | Government receives 3.5 times more time than the opposition; trade unions completely absent              |
| 4   | Omissions            | H    | 8     | Total absence of trade union voices on 1 May; "record employment" not verified                           |
| 5   | Data manipulation    | H    | 5     | "Record employment" presented as fact without documentation; M5S figure of 200 billion not verified      |
| 6   | Guilt by association | H    | 2     | Israeli accusation of "terrorist links" against activists reported without adequate rebuttal             |
| 7   | Timing               | H    | 5     | Emotional opening with Zanolari; government block at the moment of maximum attention                     |
| 8   | Selective outrage    | H    | 3     | Limited and non-systematic asymmetries in the description of geopolitical reactions                      |
| 9   | Completeness         | H    | 8     | Systematic omission of trade union voices and failure to verify government measures                      |
| 10  | Framing              | S    | 6     | Government longevity framed as an absolute positive value; "dock" metaphor                               |
| 11  | Word choice          | S    | 5     | "Dock" adopts Trumpian perspective; "imperialist threats" adopts Cuban frame                             |
| 12  | Presenter behaviour  | S    | 3     | No direct asymmetry; structural problem in the absence of rebuttal                                       |
| 13  | Question asymmetry   | S    | 4     | Systematic absence of critical questions towards the government; opposition treated as "attacker"        |
| 14  | False balance        | S    | 4     | Formal "majority vs. opposition" structure masks real asymmetry in time and treatment                    |
| 15  | Agenda-Setting       | S    | 7     | 1 May redefined as the day of the government decree; longevity as an indicator of success                |

### Results

- HARDFACTS SCORE (average criteria 1-9): 6.1 / 10
- SOFTFACTS SCORE (average criteria 10-15): 4.8 / 10
- OVERALL SCORE (average all 15 criteria): 5.7 / 10



## Dominant Techniques

---

The 3 strongest techniques in this broadcast:

- 1. Omissions (Score 8):** The total absence of trade union voices in a TG1 broadcast on 1 May is the most serious distortion of the broadcast. CGIL, CISL and UIL — which represent millions of workers and organise national demonstrations on this date — are completely excluded from the debate, which is reduced to a confrontation between government statements and parliamentary opposition criticisms.
- 2. Agenda-Setting (Score 7):** The broadcast redefines 1 May as the day of the government labour decree, presenting the longevity of the government as an indicator of success and military AI as a tool of efficiency. These agenda choices produce a systematic effect of reinforcing the government narrative without the viewer being aware of it.
- 3. Expert selection (Score 7):** The use of an anonymous military source (RED traffic light) in the military AI report, combined with the absence of independent experts to verify government claims on employment, creates a structurally imbalanced information framework.

## Key Messages of the Broadcast

---

**\*\*MESSAGE 1 (CONTENT):** \*\* "The Meloni government is stable, long-lived and produces concrete results for Italian workers"

**Technique:** Agenda-setting + framing — Evidence: 00:17:24, 00:19:38, 00:17:46

**\*\*MESSAGE 2 (PERSONAL):** \*\* "Alex Zanardi teaches us that with determination all obstacles can be overcome"

**Technique:** Initial emotional framing — Evidence: 00:01:34, 00:02:00, 00:03:43

**\*\*MESSAGE 3 (SOCIAL):** \*\* "Europe is under pressure from Trump but the Italian government is a reliable and stable ally"

**Technique:** Framing + source selection — Evidence: 00:09:42, 00:17:17, 00:19:38

## Classification of the Degree of Manipulation

---

Rationale: With an overall score of 5.7/10, the broadcast shows a clear one-sidedness that manifests itself primarily through systematic omissions (absence of trade union voices on 1 May), agenda-setting favourable to the government (longevity as a value, labour decree as a result), and a distribution of speaking time that advantages the majority over the opposition in a ratio of approximately 3.5:1. These characteristics constitute a violation of the principle of pluralism and impartiality enshrined in Art. 6 of the RAI Service Contract, as the broadcast does not guarantee a balanced representation of the different political and social positions on matters of public relevance.

## CONCLUSION

---

The TG1 of 1 May 2025 presents a clear one-sidedness that manifests itself through three main mechanisms: the systematic omission of trade union voices on a day dedicated to labour, the uncritical presentation of government measures without independent verification, and the redefinition of the 1 May agenda as the day of the government decree rather than as Workers' Day. The distribution of speaking time advantages the majority to a significant degree, and opposition criticisms are presented in a reactive and summary form. These elements constitute a violation of the principle of pluralism and impartiality enshrined in Art. 6 of the RAI Service Contract, which requires the public service to guarantee a balanced representation of all relevant political and social positions. The broadcast does not reach the level of systematic imbalance, but the combination of structural omissions and agenda-setting favourable to the government produces an informational effect that is not compatible with the public service mandate.



## OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE 15 CRITERIA

### Individual scores — All 15 criteria

| No. | 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                     | 8/10  | <i>Pronounced imbalance</i>  |
| 5   | DATA MANIPULATION                      | 5/10  | <i>Significant imbalance</i> |
| 6   | GUILT BY ASSOCIATION                   | 2/10  | <i>Irrelevant</i>            |
| 7   | TIMING                                 | 5/10  | <i>Significant imbalance</i> |
| 8   | SELECTIVE OUTRAGE                      | 3/10  | <i>Slight imbalance</i>      |
| 9   | SELECTIVE OMISSION — GENERAL FRAMEWORK | 8/10  | <i>Pronounced imbalance</i>  |
| 10  | FRAMING                                | 6/10  | <i>Significant imbalance</i> |
| 11  | WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY            | 5/10  | <i>Significant imbalance</i> |
| 12  | PRESENTER BEHAVIOUR                    | 3/10  | <i>Slight imbalance</i>      |
| 13  | QUESTION ASYMMETRY                     | 4/10  | <i>Slight imbalance</i>      |
| 14  | FALSE BALANCE                          | 4/10  | <i>Slight imbalance</i>      |
| 15  | AGENDA-SETTING                         | 7/10  | <i>Pronounced imbalance</i>  |

#### HARDFACTS SCORE (1-8)

**6.1/10**

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

#### SOFTFACTS SCORE (9-14)

**4.8/10**

*Considerable imbalance*

#### OVERALL SCORE

**5.5/10**

*Considerable imbalance*

*Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts*



## LEGEND — Meaning of scores

### Individual scores per criterion (0–10)

|            |  |   |
|------------|--|---|
| <b>0</b>   | <b>No finding</b>                      | No relevant anomaly detected.   |
| <b>1–2</b> | <b>Weak finding</b>                    | Minor anomaly without substantial impact on balance.                                |
| <b>3–4</b> | <b>Mild-moderate finding</b>           | Recognisable tendency; impact relevance from low to moderate.                       |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>Moderate finding with impact</b>    | Relevant imbalance that influences the public's opinion-forming potential.          |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>Significant finding (threshold)</b> | Scores equal to or greater than 6 are classified as "significant findings".         |
| <b>7</b>   | <b>Significant finding</b>             | Clear and well-documented imbalance with evident impact relevance.                  |
| <b>8–9</b> | <b>Serious finding</b>                 | Pronounced imbalance; multiple individual findings documented under this criterion. |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>Maximum severity</b>                | Systematic and pervasive imbalance under this criterion.                            |

### Aggregate deviation index — Interpretation ranges

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

### Political-party bias (from -5 to +5)

|                 |                               |  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>-5 to -3</b> | <b>Strongly disadvantaged</b> | The party is significantly underrepresented in framing, airtime or presentation. |
| <b>-2 to -1</b> | <b>Slightly disadvantaged</b> | Recognisable but slight disadvantage.  |
| <b>0</b>        | <b>Neutral</b>                | No detectable favouritism or disadvantage.                                       |
| <b>+1 to +2</b> | <b>Slightly favoured</b>      | Recognisable but slight favouritism.   |
| <b>+3 to +5</b> | <b>Strongly favoured</b>      | The party is significantly overrepresented in framing, airtime or presentation.  |



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

### Assessment under Service Contract Art. 6

---

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

#### Violation 1:

Norm: Service Contract Art. 6 — Pluralism of information

Facts: Total absence of trade union voices (CGIL, CISL, UIL) in a TG1 edition on 1 May, International Workers' Day, also dedicated to the government labour decree

Evidence: Timestamp 00:17:00–00:18:58 — Quotation: "Labour policies, but also the fight against illegal immigration and commitment at the international level. The majority underlines the stability of the executive and the interventions carried out" — no trade union voice present in the entire broadcast

Assessment: The pluralism of information requires that on topics of social relevance — such as labour policies on 1 May — the positions of the main social actors are represented. The total exclusion of trade union organisations, which represent millions of workers and organise national demonstrations on this date, constitutes a violation of the principle of pluralism.

#### Violation 2:

Norm: Service Contract Art. 6 — Completeness and impartiality of information

Facts: Presentation of government claims on "record employment" without verification with independent sources (ISTAT, Bank of Italy, OECD)

Evidence: Timestamp 00:17:46 — Quotation: "Record employment, lower taxes, collapse in landings and international centrality" — reported as a government statement without verification

Assessment: The impartiality of information requires that partisan claims — including those of the government — be verified with independent sources. The presentation of "record employment" as an undocumented fact violates the principle of completeness, as it omits data on the quality of employment (precariousness, fixed-term contracts) that would have provided a more complete picture.

#### Violation 3:

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

Facts: The report on the longevity of the Meloni government (00:19:11–00:20:45) mixes objective historical data with an implicit narrative that valorises governmental stability as a positive result

Evidence: Timestamp 00:19:38 — Quotation: "Today it is the one led by Giorgia Meloni that is the second longest-serving in the Republic. 1,288 days which, she writes on social media, do not represent a milestone to celebrate but an additional responsibility towards Italians" — Meloni's social media statement is reported without critical commentary, creating an effect of implicit endorsement

Assessment: The separation between news and commentary requires that partisan statements be clearly identified as such and not presented as neutral facts. The structure of the report — which alternates objective historical data with government statements — creates a mixture that is not compatible with the principle of separation.

### Overall Assessment Service Contract Art. 6

---

The TG1 of 1 May 2025 presents three identifiable violations of Service Contract Art. 6: the systematic omission of trade union voices violates the principle of pluralism; the uncritical presentation of government claims on employment violates the principle of completeness and impartiality; the mixture of historical data and government statements in the longevity report violates the principle of separation between news and commentary. These violations are not isolated but fit into a coherent pattern that produces an informational effect systematically favourable to the government narrative. In a context of high political density such as 1 May — with the government approving a labour decree and



reaching a longevity record — rigorous compliance with the principles of pluralism and impartiality would have required the presence of trade union voices, independent verification of employment data, and real rebuttal of government measures.

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

Bloomberg (cited in the Iran report, 00:12:25)

**1. FUNDING:** Bloomberg LP — private company founded by Michael Bloomberg; revenues mainly from Bloomberg financial terminals and information services for the financial sector. Private funding with a strong orientation towards financial markets.

**2. MANDATE:** Financial and general news media; the mandate is compatible with coverage of news on Iranian oil, but the orientation towards financial markets can influence the selection and framing of news.

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Bloomberg has structural interests in the oil and financial market; news about the reduction in Iranian production has direct implications for oil prices and financial markets, creating a potential conflict of interest.

### 4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX:

D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — Interests in the oil market

D2 Personal risk: +1 — Media with a reputation to defend

D3 Expertise: +2 — Expert in financial and oil markets

D4 Consistency: +1 — Media with verifiable editorial standards

D5 Emotionality vs. data: +2 — Predominantly data-based

D6 Source level: 0 — Secondary source (not a primary Iranian source)

- TOTAL: +5 → TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN (but with reservation for the structural conflict of interest)

**5. OPPOSING VOICE:** No Iranian or independent source is cited to verify the oil production data; OPEC or the International Energy Agency would have provided more neutral data.

IMPORTANT NOTE: "Recognised" is not an objective qualification. It is a social attribution that must be verified according to the criteria indicated above. Bloomberg is a reliable media outlet for financial data, but it is not a neutral source on geopolitical issues that have implications for financial markets.

## Legal and methodological framework

### This is 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.

### This is 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).

### This is not proof of causality

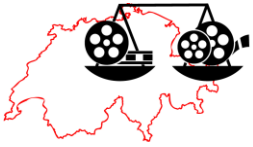
Statistical correlations must not be interpreted as proof of causal links or editorial intent. Deviation values can be influenced by the choice of topics, the information context, political controversy or the logic of the format.

### This is 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.



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato



## 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

---

"Lottizzazione" — the historical allocation 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



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato

3. Regional Administrative Court (TAR)



## ANNEX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

### Bibliography

---

- Bennett, W. L. (1990). Toward a theory of press-state relations in the United States. *Journal of Communication*, 40(2), 103–125.
- Berelson, B. (1952). *Content analysis in communication research*. Free Press.
- Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: Toward clarification of a fractured paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51–58.
- fög – Forschungszentrum Öffentlichkeit und Gesellschaft (2024). *Jahrbuch Qualität der Medien 2024*. Schwabe.
- Gilardi, F., Alizadeh, M. & Kubli, M. (2023). ChatGPT outperforms crowd workers for text-annotation tasks. *PNAS*, 120(30).
- Iyengar, S. & Kinder, D. R. (1987). *News that matters: Television and American opinion*. University of Chicago Press.
- Jolly, S. et al. (2022). Chapel Hill Expert Survey trend file, 1999–2019. *Electoral Studies*, 75, 102420.
- Krippendorff, K. (2004). *Content analysis: An introduction to its methodology* (2nd ed.). Sage.
- McCombs, M. E. & Shaw, D. L. (1972). The agenda-setting function of mass media. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 36(2), 176–187.
- Shoemaker, P. J. & Vos, T. P. (2009). *Gatekeeping theory*. Routledge.
- SVFAB (2026). *Methodenbericht v4.1: Zählbare Kriterien und Multi-Modell-Kreuzvalidierung*.
- Törnberg, P. (2023). ChatGPT-4 outperforms experts and crowd workers in annotating political Twitter messages. arXiv:2304.06588.

### SVFAB Working Papers

---

- Schläpfer, D. (2026). Systematic AI-Assisted Analysis of Public Broadcaster Impartiality: A Scalable Methodological Framework for Measuring Structural Bias in Public Service Media. [SSRN 6688478](#)
- Schläpfer, D. (2026). Measuring Editorial Noise: A Retrospective Suppression Index for Public Broadcasting Content Analysis. [SSRN 6733280](#)
- Schläpfer, D. (2026). Source Traffic Light: A Six-Dimensional Credibility Framework for Systematic Source Assessment in Public Service Media. [SSRN 6733880](#)

*David Schläpfer — ORCID: 0009-0000-5671-9266*

SVFAB — Swiss Association for Balanced Information | P.O. Box, 8021 Zurich 1 | [www.svfab.ch](http://www.svfab.ch) | [kontakt@svfab.ch](mailto:kontakt@svfab.ch) |  
*Methodological report March 2026 | Converter 3.4 (2026-05-20)*



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato

## 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.

### Contact and further information:

[www.SVFAB.ch](http://www.SVFAB.ch) | [Kontakt@SVFAB.ch](mailto:Kontakt@SVFAB.ch)

**Bank details:** PostFinance – POFICHBE

**IBAN:** CH32 0900 0000 1675 6251 1

**Beneficiary:** SVFAB, Postfach, CH-8021 Zürich 1



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato

## The following books are available from SVFAB

Orders via [www.svfab.ch](http://www.svfab.ch) or [kontakt@svfab.ch](mailto:kontakt@svfab.ch)



**Unbalanced information** is the response to the halving initiative in Switzerland: the manipulation techniques are illustrated here in detail, 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**

Also available as an **audiobook**



An interview is not a conversation. It is a stage — and someone else has written 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.



**Schweizerischer Verein** für ausgewogene Berichterstattung  
**Association suisse** pour une information équilibrée  
**Associazione svizzera** per un reporting equilibrato

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.