

Leave the church in the village

The Rhinelander is thought to be funny, cheerful, but it all goes wrong when an end comes to the fun. Then it's ears up and beware, because the Rhinelander also has a rather large fist, and knows how to use it. It has now hit the GEZ, which since January 2013 has been messing around with the fees and how much should be paid for what, although the charges payable to the GEZ were always questionable.

After presumably much talk, the GEZ agreed on a version of the new scale of charges, which states that from 1st January 2013, charges must no longer be paid per receiver, but singly for each residence. It is therefore irrelevant how many radios and TV sets there are in the residence, or even if there are any at all. At first this sounds quite democratic: one residence, one charge – this is what private households now pay. And it is there quite simple for all those who pay the basic monthly charge of € 17.98.

The few TV-haters in the country, who previously paid only the charge for a radio (€ 5.99/month), will now have to swallow their pride and ensure that TV products such as “Der Bergdoktor” also contribute to their costs, as well as such programmes as “Die goldene Kamera” or poor journalistic work such as “heute in Europa” or “Tagesschau”. All those who still live with their parents will escape the charge completely, and can freeload their way through life even more cheaply. This is development aid!

The needy or disadvantaged, such as the severely handicapped, who were previously exempt from the charge, must now make their democratic contribution to the stultification of the people by paying one-third of the basic amount, i.e. also € 5.99. Of course such a receiver of benefit can have themselves exempted from the charge – the corresponding forms are available from the [GEZ](#). People receiving benefits under ALG II and students with education grants can continue watching completely for free.

The GEZ however receives money not only from private households, but also from companies, towns and municipalities, and in no short measure. In this case codes are used to determine the relationship between equipment and use. And it is the city of Cologne, with the flagship of the WDR in the middle of the city, which now refuses to pay licence fees from now on. This was ordained by the City Clerk Guido Kahlen (according to the Kölner Anzeiger). And now? Now the Landtag is also debating whether it is permissible that some local authorities will have to pay ten times the previous charge.

This is worth our “Bombshell of the Week”, and we award it to a rapacious machinery of mass stultification, which permits partisan influence, politically acceptable Boards and programmes, and makes the people pay for it.