



NEWSLETTER

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British Ambassador to Macedonia Charles Garrett Pays Working Visit to the Agency



In August, representatives of the Agency had a working meeting with H. E. Mr. Charles Edmund Garrett, British Ambassador to Macedonia. The participants in the meeting discussed the monitoring of the radio and television services in terms of the 2017 Local Elections, the way the media do their coverage and the monitoring reports prepared by the Agency.

Agency Reacts, Condemns Incidents against Kurir.Mk and Nova TV Journalist Crews

In August, the Agency reacted strongly against the incident in which the cameraman of the Kurir.mk Internet Portal was removed from the room during a public session of the State Election Commission, condemning it and appealing that media workers be allowed to cover all events and developments without any hindrance or interruption.

The Agency also condemned the attack on the journalist crew of the NOVA TV Portal, which had taken place in Aerodrom municipality during the coverage of a civil initiative event for collecting signatures against the construction of refugee camps, and appealed for respect for the dignity of journalist profession and against hindering media workers from performing their professional tasks.

Analysis of Employee Structure in the Audio and Audiovisual Media Industry in 2016

In August, the Agency completed the analysis of the employee structure in the audio and audiovisual media industry in 2016. The analysis presents data about the total number and structure of employees in the audio and audiovisual media industry in 2016, which had been provided by the broadcasters themselves.

The employee structure was analyzed in terms of the jobs the employees performed (journalists, editors, managers, technical staff, production staff, marketing and other personnel), their status (regular or part-time employment), gender, education, as well as ethnicity of the employees in this industry.

Analysis of Misdemeanour Procedures against Broadcasters during the 2016 Early Parliamentary Elections

The Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services prepared an Analysis of the Misdemeanour Procedures Initiated against Broadcasters during the 2016 Early Elections of Members to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, due to violations against the provisions of the Electoral Code. The Analysis was aimed at studying the results of the initiated misdemeanor proceedings, identifying the factors that influenced the court decisions adopted in these proceedings, and giving recommendations for the purpose of improving the electoral regulations.

The Analysis covers the misdemeanor procedures initiated during the early parliamentary elections that were planned to take place on 24 April 2016 (but did not take place), as well as the misdemeanor procedures initiated during the early parliamentary elections that took place on 11 December 2016.



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2017 LOCAL ELECTIONS

After the Parliament of RM announced the 2017 Local Elections, the Agency commenced monitoring of the broadcasters' coverage of the elections, in accordance with the Electoral Code. A letter was sent to all broadcasters, informing them in detail about their obligations under the Electoral Code, which they should abide by until the start of the election campaign.

Working Meeting Held on the Rules of Reporting Until the Start of the Election Campaign



As part of its activities related to monitoring the 2017 local elections, the Agency organized a working meeting with representatives of the national television and radio stations on the broadcasters' obligations during the period from the elections' announcement until the start of the election campaign.

On this occasion, it was underlined that, during this period, the Agency would be monitoring the observance of journalistic standards and pluralism of views and opinions in general, as well as abidance by the bans against broadcasting paid political advertisements, ads paid with budget funds, simultaneous participation of editors, journalists, programme hosts and presenters in radio and television programmes and pre-election activities of political parties and coalitions, as well as the ban against discrimination and hate speech in reporting.

Ten-Day Monitoring Reports on the Media Coverage

In August, the Agency published two ten-day monitoring reports on the broadcasters' coverage in relation to the 2017 Local Elections. The monitoring was conducted over the entire programmes of the national television and radio programming services, focusing on the reporting in their prime-time daily news editions.

The Agency's first ten-day report, which covered the period 7-16 August 2017, indicated that broadcasters were generally abiding by the professional journalist standards in their news programmes. A tendency was noted with most of the media towards ensuring as many versatile standpoints as possible concerning the issues and topics covered. An exception to this trend was noted with only a few media outlets, which had manifested a tendency to convey standpoints by entities sharing the same position with regard to certain topics.

The second ten-day monitoring report on the media coverage, for the period from 17 until 26 August 2017, showed a general tendency among the media towards keeping their editorial policies open to diverse standpoints concerning the current social and political developments, conditions and topics. The monitoring further noted, on a number of occasions and – with certain media outlets – even on a daily basis, a trend with certain media to air news items in their prime-time news programmes which can be qualified as “pseudo-events or pseudo-news”. As regards the topic “2017 Local Elections”, the journalist items mainly referred to the organizational aspects under the competence of the State Election Commission.

All information and reports related to the Local Elections are available at the Agency's website www.avmu.mk, under the separate banner titled ELECTIONS 2017.

