

AGENCY FOR AUDIO AND  
AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA SERVICES



## NEWSLETTER

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### OSCE/ODIHR Representatives Pay Working Visit to AAVMS



A delegation of OSCE/ODIHR, led by the Deputy Head of the ODIHR Elections Department, Richard Lappin, and OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser Tamara Otiashvili, paid a working visit to the Agency on 22 February 2018, at which they presented the Final Report of the OSCE/ODIHR Monitoring Mission on the Municipal Elections held on 15 and 29 October 2017. Among other things, the Report states that the "The AVMS has proved its professionalism during the elections, entirely fulfilling its mandate".

At the meeting, the Agency shared its experiences from monitoring the media coverage of the elections, which it had conducted. Also discussed were the Agency's proposals to amend the election-related regulations. On the occasion, a special accent was placed on the Draft Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services. The Agency took the opportunity to stress again that the proposed amendments jeopardized the regulator's independence and did not contribute to improving the situation in the media sphere.

### Commission for Protection against Discrimination Conveys its Opinion on the Misogyny and Sexism Case in the Programmes of Three Radio Stations

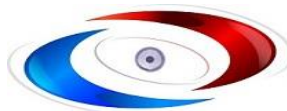
Further to the submission by the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services concerning the joint campaign produced by the SITI Radio, Klub FM Radio and the Metropolis Radio Network, the Commission for Protection Against Discrimination of the RM sent a letter to the Agency in which it expressed its opinion, concluding that gender-based harassment had been committed on the part of SITI Radio, causing violation against women's dignity, with the spots of the campaign 'for overly emancipated women', aired on 30 October 2017.

The letter of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination of RM is available on the Agency's website.

### Agency Reacts: Journalists Should be Allowed to Perform Their Jobs Unhindered

With reference to TV21's claim that a journalist of theirs had been prevented from asking a question at the Foreign Ministry's press-conference, the Agency underlined, by means of a Press Release, the necessity to allow journalists to perform their jobs unhindered, particularly when it comes to issues of special public interest.

The Agency reminded that the role of the media and the institutions' openness towards them is of key importance in today's democratic societies, as this is the only way to enable raising of and participation in broader public debates, free formation of the public opinion and shaping of critical positions.



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### Supervision over broadcasters

The Agency conducted regular programme supervision over MRT1 and MRT 2, concerning the legal provisions requiring observance of the quota for airing originally created programme and regulating language use in their programme contents; the rules for minors' protection, sponsorship and other advertising techniques; the obligations related to airing quizzes and other forms of prize-giving shows, as well as the use of value-added telephone services and telephone voting. The supervision found that neither MRT1 nor MRT 2 had met the quota for airing programme originally created in the Republic of Macedonia. A warning measure was issued against their disregard for this obligation. Also conducted over the programming services of the MRT 1 and MRT 2 was regular administrative supervision concerning their obligation to publish an Impressum, information that should be made available to the users, as well as the broadcaster's identification, but no violations were detected in this regard.

Control programme and administrative supervision was conducted over several broadcasters. Control programme supervision concerning the broadcasters' obligation to air a quota of at least 50 % of programme that has been originally created in the RM, in the Macedonian language or the languages of the non-majority communities was conducted over Alsat-M TV, Telma TV and Art Channel TV. The supervision showed that these media outlets had acted in full upon the previously imposed warning measure. As regards obligations related to airing quizzes or other forms of prize-giving programme, control supervision was conducted over Alfa TV, resulting in the conclusion that it had fully implemented the previously imposed warning measure. Supervision was conducted over Nova TV concerning its observance of the obligation to air the music quota, and it showed that this media outlet had continued to violate the provisions of the Law on AAVMS, due to which a warning measure was imposed.

The Agency conducted control administrative supervision over Telma TV and Art Channel TV, to verify if the two had removed their violations against the requirement to publish an Impressum. The supervision showed that both broadcasters had acted in line with the previously imposed warning measure. Additionally, control supervision was conducted over Art Channel TV to establish if it had provided the information that should be made available to the users. Due to its failure to provide these information, Art Channel TV was issued a warning measure.

### Supervision over operators of public electronic communication networks

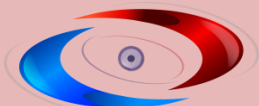
The Agency conducted regular programme supervision over the cable operators VINSAT KABEL from Vinica, INFEL-KTV from Ohrid, KABEL-NET from Strumica, NEOTEL from Skopje, PET NET from Gevgelija and ALTRA-SAT 2000 from Ohrid, concerning the legal obligations to provide subtitles in Macedonian or the language of the community that does not constitute a majority in the RM, and register the programming services with the Agencies. The supervision found that the above cable operators had acted in tune with the relevant provisions of the Law on AAVMS.

The Agency conducted control programme supervision over the TOTAL TV operator of public electronic communication network from Skopje, to determine if the latter had acted upon a previously imposed warning measure against retransmitting programming services that had not been registered with the Agency. The supervision found that the above-mentioned operator had fully abided by the imposed measure.

### Supervision over print media

The Agency conducted regular administrative supervision over 28 print media, in order to verify if they had published data about their headquarters, editors, printing plant, circulation and print or reprint date. The supervision found that 26 print media had met this obligation under the Media Law, while "Hrana i vino" and "Shenja" magazines had fulfilled it only partially.

The Agency conducted control administrative supervision over IV-AN PRINT 16, the publisher of the "Shtipski Glas" Magazine, and over JENI BALKAN, the publisher of the "Bahce" Magazine, in order to verify if they had acted upon the Decision on imposing warning measures against them due to failure to publish data about their headquarters, editors, printing plant, their circulation and date of print or reprint. Both print media had acted in full upon the Decision sent to them by the Agency.



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