**Forms for Requesting Consent to Change or Supplement more than 20% of the Programming Concept Specified in the TV or Radio Broadcasting Licenses Adopted**

At its 23rd session held on 19 July 2023, the Agency Council adopted the forms for requesting consent to change or supplement more than 20% of the programming concept specified in the television and radio broadcasting licenses.

In accordance with Article 67, Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the LAAVMS, the broadcaster is obliged to fulfill at least 80% of the programming concept defined by the license issued to them, in the course of one week. To change or supplement more than 20% of the programming concept, the broadcaster must obtain the Agency’s prior consent. The requests are submitted using the forms prepared by the Agency, which are available at the following links:

[Form\_ Request for Consent to Change or Supplement more than 20% of the Programming Concept Specified in the Television Broadcasting License](https://avmu.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/%D0%91%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%82-%D0%A2%D0%92.docx)

[Form\_ Request for Consent to Change or Supplement more than 20% of the Programming Concept Specified in the Radio Broadcasting License](https://avmu.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/%D0%91%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%82-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%90%D0%94%D0%98%D0%9E-%D1%84%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD.docx)

**Public Hearing Opened on the Draft-Rulebook Amending and Supplementing the Rulebook on Minimum Technical, Spatial, Financial and Staffing Requirements for Obtaining a Radio and Television Broadcasting License**

At its 22nd session in 2023, held yesterday, the Agency Council adopted the [Draft-Rulebook Amending and Supplementing the Rulebook on Minimum Technical, Spatial, Financial and Staffing Requirements for Obtaining a Radio and Television Broadcasting License](https://avmu.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/NACRT-Pravilnik-po-sednica-za-objava-na-veb.docx).

The Agency invites all broadcasters and interested parties to take part in the public hearing by submitting their opinions and proposals in writing, electronically, to the following e-mail address: contact@avmu.mk

**The public hearing shall last 45 days, until 28 August 2023 inclusively.**

**Јавната расправа трае 45 дена, заклучно со 28 август 2023 година.**

**Data on Radio Stations’ Reach and Television Stations’ Share in the Total Viewership for the Period April-June 2023**

A survey was conducted on the radio stations’ reach and television stations’ share in the total viewership for the period April-June 2023, for the needs of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services.

The data were obtained by means of a public opinion survey and refer to: the average daily and weekly reach of the radio stations’ listenership and television stations’ viewership; the period of the day in which the respondents were listening to radio/watching television; the type of programme content they had been listening to/watching the day before; the share in the total viewership for the previous day, i.e. share in the viewership on the territory covered by the television stations’ broadcasting and share in the total viewership; the average daily and weekly reach of the foreign television stations, etc. The data on the radio stations’ reach and the television stations’ share in the total viewership may be downloaded at this [link](https://avmu.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2.-%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%86%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%BE%D1%81%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%83%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%B2%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BF%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0-%D0%B3%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%B0%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BB-%D1%98%D1%83%D0%BD%D0%B8-2023.pdf).

**Expenditures Incurred by the Agency Director in the 1st Half of 2023 Announced**

In accordance with its efforts to ensure transparency and accountability, and abiding by its own established practice to publish information about the expenditures incurred by Agency Director Zoran Trajchevski after each six-month period, on 7 July 2023, the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services informed the public that, in the period from 01.01.2023 until 30.06.2023, while conducting the tasks of his office, Director Trajchevski incurred expenditures totaling MKD 270,328.00, as follows:

1. **Representation expenses** (hospitality services for representatives of embassies, members of the Agency Council and business partners) – MKD 87,786.00
2. **Official mobile phone services** – MKD 17,530.00
3. **Expenses for the business trips abroad** – MKD 105,725.00 (MKD 59,278.00 for airline tickets and MKD 105,725.00 for hotel accommodation and other travel expenses).

**July 2023 No. 7**

**Anonymous Threats Sent to AAAVMS Director Due to a Rejected Demand to Revoke Alsat M TV’s License**

On 17 July 2023, the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services informed the public that, on 13 July, an unknown person had sent messages containing threats to the mobile phone number of Agency Director Zoran Trajchevski.

The messages were sent after the Agency had rejected a submitted anonymous Initiative for revoking the license of Alsat-M at the session held on 11 July. The Agency had reviewed the submitted Initiative, however, it was established that the links provided as alleged evidence of the owner of Alsat M TV, i.e. Ve Ve Group’s abusing the television station and exerting pressure on state institutions with the aim of pursuing its business needs, were inaccessible. Moreover, as the Initiative had been submitted as an anonymous petition, it was not possible to notify the submitter and request them to remove the flaws.

The media-related legislation clearly specifies the grounds on which a broadcasting license may be revoked from a certain radio or television station, precisely so that the action could not be made on an arbitrary basis but only in precisely defined cases. Sending threatening messages due to an unmet demand, based on one’s personal wishes and personal interests, constitutes an individual psychological intimidation and harassment, and in this particular case, pressure and direct threat against the freedom of the media and the freedom of information and expression.

The case was reported to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the other competent institutions, which it expects to swiftly resolve the case, establish the responsibility of the person who had sent the threats and sanction him/her accordingly. The relevant international organizations were notified as well. The Agency hopes that cases like this will not be repeated in the future, as they affect not only the media but also the safety and security of journalists and media workers.

**Press Releases**

The Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services reacted on several occasions, by means of press releases, against attacks and obstructions against journalists and media workers performing their work.

On July 7, the withdrawal of a text published and edited by the journalist and editor Zharko Nastoski from the online edition of “Sloboden Pechat”, was condemned. The Agency stressed in its press release that journalists have the right and obligation to inform and to raise issues that are of public interest, especially when it comes to suspicions about possible abuses by the government and public office holders. The complete withdrawal of a published text not only negatively affects freedom of information and freedom of expression, but can also be interpreted as an attempt at censorship, which is expressly prohibited under the Constitution. Media are independent in their editorial policy, but they also have a responsibility towards the public in the direction of informing them. Hence, it is necessary that they respect the autonomy, independence and responsibility of editors, journalists and other authors when creating content and encourage investigative journalism in accordance with the professional standards of the journalistic profession.

Regarding the verbal and physical attack on the TV 24 cameraman Ivan Kamchev, that took place near Rosoman, the Agency reminded on July 19, that any type of attack on media representatives is absolutely unacceptable and that at no time should their safety be broght into question. Media workers should carry out their work smoothly, in accordance with the professional standards and principles established in the Code of Journalists, including those related to the manner of reporting during accidents.

On 25 July, the Agency most strongly condemned the explicit threats directed at Alsat-M TV journalist Rita Behadini by a person on “Facebook". In the Press Release it was underlined that journalists and media workers need to carry out their work without any hindrances, intimidations or pressure. Threats to life, including those expressed on the social networks, constitute a criminal offense and the competent authorities should take action to quickly solve the case and impose appropriate sanctions.

On 28 July, the Agency most strongly condemned the obstruction of the Telma TV news reporting crew’s reporting on a session of the Judicial Council, which had experts of the EU Peer Review Mission participating. The Press Release emphasized that journalists and media teams should be given free access to all events, considering their role in informing the public on matters of public interest and in ensuring transparency and accountability of the public authorities. It is the job of media workers to do reporting always and from everywhere, while the institutions have an obligation not to hinder this right of theirs, so as to protect the freedom of reporting and public information.

**Supervisions over Broadcasters, Operators of Public Electronic Communication Networks and Print Media Publishers**

**Broadcasters**

The Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services performed regular administrative supervision over all 106 broadcasters of television or radio programmes. The supervision covered the obligation of the broadcasters to publish, for the second time this year (by June 30 at the latest), data on their ownership structure, editorship and funding sources during the previous year as part of their own programmes at prime time, and to submit footage of the announcement to the Agency within 15 days from the day of airing the announcement. The supervision concluded that only Radio PRO-FM from Gostivar had not met this legal obligation.

As part of its duty, the Agency conducted ad hoc administrative supervision over the work of Iris TV, in order to check if it had removed the violation against Article 82, paragraph 1, indent 2 of the LAAVMS. The ad hoc supervision established that Iris TV from Shtip had stopped broadcasting the programming service for more than 30 days due to technical, financial or other reasons. Control administrative supervision was also carried out over Iris TV, in order to check if the broadcaster has removed the violation against Article 82, paragraph 1, indent 2, of the LAAVMS, which showed that this TV outlet had not started broadcasting the programme. Due to its failure to broadcast programming services for more than 30 days as a result of technical, financial or other reasons, on August 1, the Council of the Agency made a Decision to revoke the television broadcasting license of TRD IRIS DOO from Shtip.

**Operators of Public Electronic Communication Networks**

Regarding the obligation of the operators of PECNs to include the programme services of the public broadcasting service in their programme packages, obligatorily and free of charge, as well as the obligation to register their programme services with the Agency and provide subtitles for the programmes that they retransmit, regular programme supervision was carried out over the operators Kabel-L-Net, Cablecall, Infel KTV, Kabel, Telekabel and Pet Net. The supervisions found no violations.

The Agency carried out control programme supervision over the operator of public electronic communications network Total TV from Skopje, to find whether it had acted upon the previously pronounced public warning measures, imposed due to retransmission of programme services that are not registered with the Agency and failure to retransmit free of charge and as a must the programme services of the public broadcasting service as part of its programme package. The supervisions found that that the operator had not provided the programming services of the public broadcasting service "MRT 2", "MRT 3", "MRT 4" and "MRT 5" as part of its programme package.

**Public Warning Measures Imposed**

At its 23rd session held on July 19, the Agency Council adopted, based on supervision findings, two public warning measures against Kanal 77 Radio. One public warning measure was issued due to failure to provide information that should be made available to the users, while the second public warning measure was imposed due to failure to publish data that should be broadcast at an appropriate slot for each of the contents of its programming service.

At its 22nd session held on July 11, the Agency Council adopted, based on supervision findings, three public warning measures against Radio Metropolis from Skopje, due to broadcasting sponsored news, exceeding the advertising limit of 12 minutes per clock hour and due to failure to publish Impressum data in the separate units of aired radio news.

