**World Press Freedom Day Marked**

The 3rd of May marked World Press Freedom Day for the 30th time – this year under the motto “Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all Other Human Rights”. The aim of this International Day is to raise awareness of the role of journalists and the media in promoting democracy and human rights, and to remind that, without freedom of the media, there is no freedom of expression.

According to the latest, 2023, Report by the *Reporters Without Borders*, Macedonia has seen significant improvement in the field of press freedom, but it still has challenges to meet. To this aim, the Agency shall continue its proactive role in raising awareness of the role of media, as it has done so far.

**Supervisions over Broadcasters and Operators of Public Electronic Communication Networks**

**Broadcasters**

Regular programme supervisions on the compliance with the rules for broadcasting audiovisual commercial communications, the protection of juvenile audiences, the use of value-added telephone services and telephone voting, the broadcasting of games of chance and the provision of quizzes or other forms of prize-winning participation, the use of language in the programmes, the broadcasting of at least 12 hours of television programme daily and the broadcasting at least 30% of originally created programme, were conducted over TV Alfa, TV Alsat-M, TV Kanal 5, TV Thelma and TV Sitel.

**Press Releases**

Taking into account the developments in Serbia, as well as the complaints that some Macedonian citizens had been sending regarding the manner of ireporting, the Agency issued a press release on 10th May, calling on all media outlets to adhere to the highest professional standards and ethical values when reporting on these tragic events. This particularly applies to reporting on events involving minors who have been the perpetrators or victims of crimes. News and information programmes should not be based on sensationalism, but should contain verified information. The inclusion of descriptions, scenes and/or sights of violence or other material that may harm the physical, psychological and moral development of children and young people must be based on a responsible editorial assessment of the necessity to show the above. Professional responsibility also implies that the victims of violence should be treated with maximum respect and care should be taken to protect privacy and respect human dignity, personal pain and grief of and for the victims. The press release indicated that, apart from the media, the operators of public electronic communication networks should also manifest maximum social responsibility when retransmitting services that contain programs involving violence, vulgar language and other inappropriate content that have a bad effect on minors and may, in general, disturb the general public. This means that they should be particularly careful when deciding what services they will be rtransmitting and should apply the strictest technical measures for parental control.

On May 10, the Agency condemned the removal of the camerapersons from the session of the Judicial Council and pointed out that this unprofessional attitude towards the media contributes not only to casting a shadow on the transparency of the judiciary, but also violates the right of the public to be fully informed about the work of the judicial authorities. It was pointed out as particularly important that all journalistic crews should be provided with unhindered access to report on events of public interest, with the aim of ensuring transparency and accountability of the institutions.

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The surveillance concluded that Telma TV had not marked for product placement the two editions of the entertainment and documentary show "The Adventures of Mark" aired in its programme of May 8, and had particularly promoted the catering services of the "Staro/Zlatno Bure" restaurant, as well as the products of the "Sasha truffles" company. Moreover, the edition of the educational and entertainment show titled "Garden Club Gradens" was not appropriately marked as programme containing product placement, that particularly recommended the products of the Nakayama company. The Alsat-M TV aired covert audiovisual commercial communications about the "Sveti Vid" hospital in its programme of May 8, in the specialized healthcare show titled "Mirror of Health".

Regular programme supervision was conducted over the MRT 1, TV 24 Vesti, TV Alfa, TV Klan Makedonija, Nasha TV, TV Alsat - M, TV Kanal 5, TV Telma, TV Shenja, TV Sitel, TV Sonce and TV Company 21-M programme services, regarding their obligations to broadcast European audiovisual works and works from independent producers. The supervision found no violations.

Several control programme and administrative supervisions were carried out over TV Sonce, TV Company 21-M, TV Klan Makedonija and Nasha TV to determine whether these broadcasters had acted upon the Decisions on Public Warning Measure, imposed due to various legal violations. The supervisions established that the broadcasters had acted in accordance with the legal provisions of the Law on AAVMS and the Law on Media.

**Operators of Public Electronic Communication Networks**

As regards the obligation of the operators of PECNs to provide, obligatorily and free of charge, the programme services of the public broadcasting service in the programme packages they retransmit, as well as the obligations to register their programme services with the Agency and provide subtitles for the programmes they retransmit, regular programme supervision was carried out over the operators Multimedia Network L, Telenet Com, Viva Net and Scoopy Cable. No violations were found during the supervision.

**Providers of on-demand AVM Services**

Regarding the obligations related to airing of cinematographic works, protection of minors and promotion of the production of and access to European works, regular programme supervision was carried out over the following providers of on-demand AVM services: A1 Makedonija, Svod Master and Makedonski Telecom. The programme supervision found no violations.

**Public Warning Measures Imposed**

At its 16th session held on May 29, the Council of the Agency adopted a Decision to impose a public warning measure against the Color Media Plus Production, Trade and Services Company from Skopje, publisher of the print media outlet "The Economist", due to failure to publish data such as the address of the head office of the media publisher, the address of the printing house, the date of printing or reprinting and the circulation.

At its 15th session held on May 18, the Agency Council imposed, based on findings of conducted supervisions, a total of three public warning measures. Two public warning measures were imposed on TV IRIS from Shtip, one of which was due to failure to provide data on the ownership structure, the responsible editor/s, the sources of funding in 2022, the total revenues and expenditures realized in 2022, while the second one was due to failure to publish required data on its own programme and submit footage of the announcement to the Agency. Kompani 21-M TV was issued a public warning measure for not publishing required data in its own program and not submitting footage of the announcement to the AAAVMS, in accordance with the obligation of Article 15, Paragraph 3, of the Law on Media.

At its 14th session held on May 3, the Council of the Agency adopted, based on the findings of a programme supervision, a decision to issue a public warning measure against Klan Makedonija TV, due to failure to broadcast at least 30% of programme originally created as Macedonian audiovisual works daily, in the period from 07 :00 hrs until 19:00 hrs.

