



CONSILIUL NAȚIONAL AL AUDIOVIZUALULUI

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**Romania Country Report
40 EPRA Meeting in Tbilisi
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Key developments at national level

1. Between May 2014 and September 2014, the National Audiovisual Council in Romania focused on aspects of the regulation and on development of the audiovisual market. In this period, the National Audiovisual Council regulated and monitored the Euro-parliamentary elections campaign and the national parliamentary by-elections, and is currently preparing the improvement of the regulatory framework for the presidential elections campaign.

Consequently, the National Audiovisual Council promptly sanctioned the non-observance of the legal provisions and applied, during the reported period, a total of 63 legal sanctions (out of which 27 fines and 36 public summons). Most of the sanctions applied by NAC in this interval regard the protection of minors in program services, in keeping with the provisions in the Audiovisual Law no. 504/2002 with its further modifications and the Regulatory Code Regarding the Audiovisual Content (NAC Decision no. 220/2011 with its further modifications).

Regarding the audiovisual market, a number of 89 licences and audiovisual authorisations were granted during this period, for radio stations, and TV cable and satellite TV stations, to companies that have submitted documentation. In the same time, the Council withdrew more than 192 licenses and audiovisual authorisations, for failure to comply with the legal provisions in force.

2. With regard to the national partial parliamentary electoral campaign, the Council adopted Decision no.225/08.04.2014 regarding the principles and rules for unfolding, in the audiovisual domain, of the electoral campaign for partial parliamentary elections, and consequently, monitored the coverage of the Romanian electoral campaign during May 2014.

Regarding the European elections, in order to ensure a balanced and uniform information of Romanian voters with the voters in the Member States of the European Union, the Council issued the *Recommendation no.2/01.04.2014* on the audio and video spots of the European Parliament to be broadcast under public interest ads.

The Council also monitored the coverage of the campaign for the election of Romanian members of the European Parliament, in keeping with the NAC Decision no 185/20.03.2014 on the rules for the unfolding, in the audiovisual, of the campaign for the

election of Romanian members of the European Parliament, during 25 April-25 May 2014.

With regard to the electoral campaign for presidential elections, to be unfolded during October 3rd, 2014 for the first round and November 16th, 2014, for the second round, the draft Council decision for regulation of the electoral campaign during national parliamentary by-elections in audiovisual media services has been also made public for debate, before adopting it. This Decision has been adopted (NAC Decision no.528/11.09.2014, published in the OJ no.674/15.09.2014) following wide consultation with representatives of broadcasters and of the Romanian NGOs specialised in media and elections. Thus, the Council aims at contributing to the correct unfolding of the elections campaign, in the audiovisual field, based on the accumulated experience in the monitoring of previous election campaigns.

3. The Council launched since 2013 the media education campaign, which continued in 2014 with specific information activities in schools backed by the Council experts during the first week of April. Over 100 classes were visited by CNA experts, who addressed children from primary to high school level, in order to talk to pupils about the key concepts in media education and about the elements that make a person media competent, in keeping with the EU definition.

4. Digital switchover

Following the adoption of the „Strategy on digital switchover and the implementation of digital multimedia services” (Government Decision no. 403/2013), four national multiplexes shall be granted for UHF bands and one for VHF. The responsible institution is the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania (ANCOM), which will end the digital switchover by June 17, 2015. Consequently, CNA shall issue rules concerning the audiovisual licenses for DTT service programmes and shall conduct the information campaign, according to the digital agenda established by the ANCOM.

5. Cooperation with other RAs within the Central European Regulatory Forum (CERF)

The National Audiovisual Council hosted the 6th annual meeting of the Central European Regulatory Forum, which unfolded during the period **4th and 5th September 2014**, in Bucharest. The representatives of the other seven regulatory authorities from Central and Eastern Europe agreed on AEM-Croatia application for CERF membership and signed the Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation and Exchange of Information.

According to the agenda, the interactive debates focused on: regulating and monitoring European and national election campaigns in 2014; minors' protection in convergent media services; regulation and self-regulation in commercial communications; licensing programmes "18+" for linear and non-linear audiovisual media services; jurisdiction challenges for non-convergent regulatory authorities; telepromotion.

C.N.A. Romania