

CONSILIUL NATIONAL AL AUDIOVIZUALULUI

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Romania Country Report 41-st EPRA Meeting in Berne

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Key developments at national level

1. Between September 2014 and April 2015, 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 campaign for presidential elections (October – November).

Consequently, the National Audiovisual Council promptly sanctioned the non-observance of the legal provisions and applied, during the reported period, a total number of 63 legal sanctions (out of which 30 fines and 33 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 49 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 151 licenses and audiovisual authorisations, for failure to comply with the legal provisions in force.

2. With regard to the electoral campaign for presidential elections, 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 for presidential elections in the audiovisual domain 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 aimed 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.

The Council also monitored the coverage of the electoral campaign in audiovisual media services, and issued several sanctions for non-compliance with the above-mentioned regulations.

3. 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. So far, three national multiplexes have been granted and nine regional ones, so that ANCOM unfolds the procedures for granting of those which are still ungranted. At present, the working group of institutions involved analyzed the delay of implementation of multiplexes. 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.

4. 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 **4**th **and 5**th **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