



CONSILIUL NAȚIONAL AL AUDIOVIZUALULUI

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1. Key developments at national level

Between October 2015 and April 2016, the National Audiovisual Council in Romania focused on aspects of the regulation and on development of the audiovisual market.

Consequently, the National Audiovisual Council promptly sanctioned the non-observance of the legal provisions and applied, during the reported period, a total of 116 legal sanctions (out of which 37 fines and 79 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 of 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 174 licences and audiovisual authorisations were granted during this period, for radio and TV stations (cable and satellite), to companies that have submitted documentation according to the audiovisual legislation. In the same time, the Council withdrew more than 229 licenses and audiovisual authorisations, for failure to comply with the legal provisions in force.

2. Legislative updates

In order to monitor effective compliance with the legal provisions relating to radio and television broadcasting, the Council has drawn CNA Decision no. 223 of April 5, 2016 for amending CNA Decision no. 412 of May, 10, 2007 on the obligations for broadcasters to recording of radio and television programs (published in the OJ no.285/April 14, 2016, Part I).

In relation to the campaign for local elections to be held on radio and television channels, between May 6 and June 3, 2016, the Council drafted the decision and submitted to public debate, in a wide consultation with representatives of broadcasters and NGOs specialized in media and elections. Subsequently, the Council adopted the decision (CNA Decision no. 244 of 12 April 2016 on rules of election campaign in the audiovisual domain for local elections in

2016), which was published in the OJ no.295/April 19, 2016, Part I. Thus, the Council aims to contribute to proper election campaign in broadcasting, based on its experience in monitoring the previous election campaigns.

3. Digital switchover

According to the „Strategy on digital switchover and the implementation of digital multimedia services” (Government Decision no. 403/2013), the responsible institution is the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications of Romania (ANCOM), which concluded the digital switchover on June 17, 2015. Although the terrestrial analogue broadcasting of television service programmes ceased as from 17 June 2015, the broadcasting of public service and private television programs will continue, temporarily, in the 174-230 MHz radio frequency band, up to 31 December 2016, under the provisions of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 18/2015. This transitional situation was determined by the fact that the implementation of electronic communications network necessary for the provision of public services of digital terrestrial television is delayed.

In the case of private television stations, these had the opportunity to request at NAC to continue broadcasting by other electronic communication networks (cable or satellite).

4. Cultural responsibilities and new researches

According to CNA responsibility to protect Romanian culture and language in the audiovisual media services, the Council issued Recommendation no. 2/2016 regarding the proper use of Romanian language in audiovisual commercial communications.

The Council also restarted the successfully developed multiannual program between 2007 – 2012, in partnership with the Romanian Academy - Institute of Linguistics "Iorgu Jordan - Al. Rosetti", designed to improve Romanian language used in broadcasting.

In April 2016 was published the result of research conducted by the Institute of Linguistics for the benefit of NAC in the first stage of monitoring the quality of Romanian language used in broadcasting, scheduled for 2016. In drafting the report, in March were monitored 12 television and two radio channels, chosen by audience, by the national coverage, by the debate and news programs, and cultural and educational role. The report also includes a quality monitoring Romanian language used in advertising. The report can be accessed at the link: <http://www.cna.ro/Rezultatele-monitoriz-rii-privind,7884.html>