



HELLENIC NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

COUNTRY REPORT – GREECE

48th EPRA Meeting, Bratislava, 10-12 October 2018

I. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE LICENSING PROCEDURE FOR FREE TO AIR DTT

In November 2017, the NCRTV issued an invitation to tender for the granting of seven licenses to providers of free to air nationwide general information audiovisual broadcasting content for a total period of ten years (Invitation to Tender 1/2017). The starting price for the auctioning of each of these licenses was set in the amount of €35.000.000, payable in ten equal annual installments.

Six candidate companies expressed their interest in this tendering procedure, namely:

1. EIDISEIS DOT COM S.A. (SKAI TV)
2. NEA TILEORASI S.A. (STAR TV)
3. ALPHA DORIFORIKI TILEORASI S.A. (ALPHA TV)
4. ANTENNA TV S.A. (ANTENNA TV)
5. RADIOTILEOPTIKI S.A. (EPSILON TV)
6. TILEOPTIKI ELLINIKI S.A.

With its decisions 61/208, 63/2018 and 65/2018 the NCRTV concluded that the constitutional and legal requirements for the granting of these licenses were fully satisfied as concerns the following five companies:

1. EIDISEIS DOT COM S.A. (SKAI TV)
2. NEA TILEORASI S.A. (STAR TV)
3. ALPHA DORIFORIKI TILEORASI S.A. (ALPHA TV)
4. ANTENNA TV S.A. (ANTENNA TV)
5. RADIOTILEOPTIKI S.A. (EPSILON TV)

It was also concluded that the application of TILEOPTIKI ELLINIKI S.A. should not be accepted for the principal reason that its sole ultimate shareholder had failed to fully establish its actual connection with the financial means used for the formation of the capital of the candidate company. It was underlined that this gave rise to uncertainty about the transparency of the ownership regime of this company, contrary to the relevant constitutional requirements.

Given that the number of the successful tenderers was smaller than the number of the available licenses, each of those candidates was automatically proclaimed provisional concessionaire for the granting of a license at the starting price of the auctioning procedure.



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Following an initial examination of the legitimacy of the origin and the acquisition of the financial means that the provisional concessionaires stated that they would use for the payment of the first installment of their license, these companies were appointed final licensees and they were required to pay the amount of €3.500.000 to the public revenue by September 20 2018 (Decision 101/2018).

After the successful completion of this payment, the NCRTV awarded the broadcasting licenses to their new owners and published its final awarding acts in the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic.

It is also worth mentioning that the Hellenic Council of State has already rejected all applications made against the validity of the tendering procedure, confirming thus the legality of the invitation to tender and of all awarding acts issued on the basis its provisions.

II. FUTURE PRIORITIES OF THE NCRTV

The NCRTV is already preparing the publication of two new invitations to tender for the award of a still undefined number of licenses to providers of free to air nationwide thematic audiovisual broadcasting content and to providers of free to air regional range audiovisual broadcasting content. It is not settled yet which one of these tendering procedures will be given priority to but it is expected that the invitation to tender should be ready for publication within the first semester of the coming year.

As concerns the exercise of its control over audiovisual media service providers falling under its jurisdiction, the NCRTV has recently launched a new strategy that focuses on the general quality level of the broadcasted program rather than on specific isolated violations of the relevant legislative provisions. Under this strategy, the overall program of each audiovisual media service provider is closely scrutinized over a specific period of time. The ultimate aim of this scrutiny is to establish the compliance of that program with the constitutional obligations regarding its quality level and the safeguarding of the general interest requirements concerning amongst others the protection of minors, the objectivity and impartiality of news and information, the aesthetic of the broadcasting language, the protection of personality, the prohibition of fake news and the prevention of hate speech and racist and xenophobic rhetoric.

That is not to say of course that particularly serious violations of the legislative requirements will not be tackled on an individual basis. Over the year, specific attention has been paid to certain reality games that give rise to considerable concerns about their general concept and the negative effects that this could potentially have on minors. That is particularly the case as concerns the so-called survival shows, in which participants compete over essential supplies and food ratios and vote against each other on the basis



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of essentially unprincipled tactics and treacherous and opportunistic alliances. In an important case, the NCRTV concluded that the general format of these shows may seriously impair the mental and moral integrity of minors by projecting a hazardous raw model that undervalues the ideals of probity and uprightness and promotes the building of unscrupulous and manipulative social relationships (Decision 185/2017). This case sets therefore the basic principles that will be used to examine the legality of reality games and survival shows in the future.

III. CO-HOSTING OF A SEMINAR ON LICENSING IN THE AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA CONTEXT

To celebrate its return to the European Audiovisual Observatory, the NCTV jointly organized with the EAO and the Hellenic Ministry of Digital Policy a roundtable international public conference on licensing procedures concerning audiovisual media services. The program of this seminar and more information about can be found online at <https://www.obs.coe.int/en/web/observatoire/-/licensing-in-the-new-audiovisual-media-context>

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