

Follow up – Ministry of Culture

1. Yes, the draft amendments to the Radio and Television Act (RTA) include provisions for the independence of public service media (PSM) with regard to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1083. They address the main dimensions: editorial independence, appointment and dismissal procedures, functional independence of PSM providers, and the financial framework.

2. The current framework provides for media ownership transparency through the publication of declared information and makes the relevant data publicly accessible. The Council for Electronic Media maintains a public register covering linear and non-linear media services, undertakings distributing programmes and video-sharing platform services falling within the scope of the RTA, while media activities outside that scope, such as print publications and certain online services, are subject to a separate legal regime administered by the Ministry of Culture. According to the current working draft, the amendments to the RTA would strengthen transparency of ownership and public funding by requiring information on beneficial owners, direct or indirect owners able to influence strategic decisions, state or public ownership, and public funds received for state advertising.

3. Work on the draft law amending the RTA in the working group is expected to be completed by the end of May 2026, after which the bill must be coordinated with the relevant ministries (and specifically with the Ministry of Finance with regard to the financial justification). Together with the explanatory memorandum and a partial or full preliminary impact assessment, it will be published on the Strategy.bg portal and on the website of the Ministry of Culture for a period of at least 30 days (or, in exceptional cases, for a shorter period of not less than 14 days). Once approved by the Council of Ministers, the draft law will be formally submitted to the National Assembly for consideration and adoption.

4. The current working draft includes related proposed amendments to the Public Procurement Act concerning state advertising, transparency requirements and publication of information on the Public Procurement Portal. As no separate confirmed timeline is available at this stage, the precise timeline remains subject to further coordination with the competent authorities responsible for public procurement legislation.

Please note that the draft law amending the Radio and Television Act is still being developed by a working group under the Minister of Culture, so the draft has not yet been finalised and further changes and additions may still be made to it.