



Montenegro
BROADCASTING AGENCY COUNCIL
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PRESS RELEASE

At today's session, the Broadcasting Agency Council discussed the **Electronic Communications Bill**, adopted last week by the working bodies of the Government of Montenegro.

The Council estimated that there was nothing essentially new in the new bill and reiterated its disagreement with the offered solutions, which would interrupt the media reform process and endanger the independence of the existing regulatory authority. The proposed restructuring implies the setting up of an electronic communications regulator, which would absorb vital segments of the broadcasting in a manner incompliant with the Council of Europe recommendations and other European standards and regulations. This action jeopardises the framework for a diverse and pluralistic broadcasting sector and development of broadcast media, based on the principles of freedom of broadcast media and their contribution to the freedom of expression. It was also estimated that it was not acceptable to have the broadcasting system regulated in a non-transparent manner, as it had been done throughout the entire law drafting procedure.

The Council suggested a broad public discussion on the bill to be conducted prior to the adoption by the Government of Montenegro, as well as the obtaining of opinions of the Council of Europe, European Commission and other relevant national and foreign stakeholders.

The Council instructed the Director to draw, once again, the attention of the line Ministry to the weak points of the proposed model and invest effort in finding a solution in line with the European standards.

Chairman
of the Broadcasting Agency Council

Dr Zdravko Uskoković