



Montenegro
Agency for Electronic Media
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PRESS RELEASE

Before the beginning of the election campaign, the Agency for Electronic Media (AEM) adopted the rulebooks on rights and obligations of broadcasters related to the parliamentary and local elections, in compliance with the Electronic media Law. They regulate the conditions related to the rights and obligations of broadcasters in terms of the election campaign and political advertising in order to ensure that the citizens are informed about all phases of the process and about different positions during the election campaign in an accurate, timely and impartial manner, under equal conditions for all participants in the election campaign. AEM published on its website the individual rules of media presentation during the election campaign, adopted by the public, commercial or non-profit broadcasters that offered media presentation services. Moreover, it published an overview of the submitted contact details of the broadcasters' bodies in charge of complaints.

AEM has initiated 56 procedures ex officio to determine the responsibility of broadcasters for the contents broadcast during the election campaign, out of which:

- 35 procedures because of untimely submission of records of the broadcast content of relevance for the media presentation.

After the registered irregularities had been eliminated, 25 procedures were suspended, while 10 procedures are under way.

- 21 procedures because of surreptitious media presentation, i.e. broadcasting of the content that constitutes media presentation, without being recognizable and separated, both audio and visually, from other programmes, or clearly marked as "Parliamentary/Local Elections".

Out of all initiated procedures, three resulted in warnings, while 18 are under way.

During the election campaign, AEM had received 15 complaints against broadcasters, out of which eight were dismissed as unfounded, while one was accepted, resulting in a warning. The procedure for determining the grounds for the remaining six procedures is under way. All these complaints will be processed within the legally defined timeframe of 30 days after the receipt.

According to the Law, if it receives an appeal against the electronic media outlets during the election campaign from a submitter of the election ticket or the public authority in charge of the election process, AEM is obliged to adopt a decision within 24 hours. During the election campaign, AEM did not receive any appeals it was obliged, according to the Law, to process within this timeframe.

AEM carried out the procedures in line with the Law, in a transparent and efficient way, and published all decisions on the AEM's website.

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