

10

Aug  
2017

⚠ Lvl. 2

Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

n° 42/2017

Alert created on: 18 Apr 2017

## Threat of Closure of the Public Broadcast Media Service

No state  
reply yet

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

### NO STATE REPLY YET

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ, Index, RSF

The Radio and Television of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BHRT) is facing possible shut down due to the absence of an agreed plan for sustainable funding of public media service. The BHRT, which is marred in financial difficulties including debts to staff and to service providers such as the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), has been operating a heavily reduced service since June 2016, only broadcasting sports competitions and reruns of old programmes. The EBU reportedly has launched a lawsuit for payment of debts accumulated to unsustainable amounts and placed BHRT under sanction 3, stopping its services to the public broadcaster. BHRT is now under heightened risk of closure.

### UPDATES

**10 Aug 2017:** In August 2017, the Radio and Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHRT) signed a deal with electric company Elektroprivreda - JP EP, establishing from that month onwards the collection of TV license fees through electricity bills. The agreement will be offered to other domestic electric companies as well, thus filling the gap that was left by the expiration in 2016 of the previous model for collecting the license fee.

➡ Article by EFJ: "Public service media in Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to sustainable funding"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



➔ [Statement from the EBU: "EBU appeals to Bosnia and Herzegovina Government to save public service broadcasting"](#)

➔ [Article on Balkan Insight: "Debts to Force Bosnia's Public Broadcaster Off Air"](#)

## FOLLOW-UPS



**16 Jun 2017** | CoE Commissioner for Human Rights says that greater efforts are needed to enhance social cohesion and media freedom in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

➔ [Press release from the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights concerning his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.](#)



**02 May 2017** | The CoE Commissioner for Human Rights details the prerequisites for well-funded and strong public service media.

➔ [The Commissioner's Human Rights Comments 'Public service broadcasting under threat in Europe'](#)



**18 Apr 2017** | OSCE Freedom of the Media Representative says that shutdown of public broadcaster in Bosnia and Herzegovina is neither a solution nor an option

➔ [Statement from Dunja Mijatović](#)

## RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS

**15 Dec 2016** | Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on public service media governance (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 February 2012 at the 1134th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

➔ [Read Recommendation](#)

**DISCLAIMER** This section presents a non-exhaustive selection of CoE instruments and ECHR case-law. This information is not a legal assessment of the alert and should not be treated or used as such.