



03

 May
2018
⚠️ Lvl. 2

 State
replied

Romania

Alert created on: 15 Mar 2016

Threats to the Independence of the Romanian Public Broadcaster (TVR)

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ

Romanian public broadcaster TVR is facing financial collapse caused by a chaotic management and the government's decision to freeze the TV tax at the level of 2003 (4 Romanian lei, which is the lowest rate in Europe). A package of proposed amendments to the Romanian Public Broadcaster Law (41/1994), which has been announced by several politicians, will make possible for the TVR to be declared insolvent. The Romanian union of journalists, MediaSind, fears this procedure could legitimise the government's control on public broadcasting. MediaSind called on Romanian authorities to protect TVR from political interference, including by refraining from imposing restrictions on public broadcasting funding.

UPDATES

03 May 2018: On 3 May 2018, the Romanian President Klaus Iohannis asked the national Parliament to review its proposed amendments to Article 19 of the Romanian Public Broadcaster Law (no. 41/1994), on ground that they contain unclear provisions.

- ➔ Text of the President's request to the Parliament (in Romanian)
- ➔ Article published on tenews.ro "Iohannis reîntoarce în Parlament legea privind organizarea și funcționarea SRTv și SRR"

15 Jan 2018: On 18 December 2017, the Romanian President Klaus Iohannis asked the national Parliament to review its proposed amendments to the Romanian Public Broadcaster Law (41/1994), on ground that they contain unclear provisions which are likely to jeopardise the proper functioning of the Romanian public broadcaster.

- ➔ Article published on Ziare.com : "Iohannis retrimite la Parlament legea care permite sefilor din TVR si Radio sa fie membri de partid"

01 Feb 2017: On 6 January 2017, the President of Romania promulgated the bill on the elimination of over 100 non-fiscal taxes, including the radio-TV licence tax. The law entered into force on 1 February 2017.

➔ [Text of the law published in the Official Journal \(in Romanian\)](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ➔ [Article published on MediaPowerMonitor website: "The Romanian Public Television on the Brink of Insolvency"](#)
- ➔ [Statement from AEJ: "AEJ concerned about the fate of Romania's public broadcasting services"](#)
- ➔ [Statement of MediaSind, the Romanian Union of Journalists \(in Romanian\): "Insolența instaurează cenzura în TVR! "](#)

STATE REPLIES



05 Aug 2016 | Reply by the Government of Romania

- ➔ [Letter by the Romanian Prime Minister Dacian Ciolos to the Secretary General of Council of Europe](#)

FOLLOW-UPS



13 May 2016 | The Secretary General writes to the Prime Minister of Romania.

- ➔ [Letter from the Secretary General to the Prime Minister](#)

RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS

04 Apr 2016 | [Factsheet on Freedom of Expression and the Broadcasting Media](#)

- ➔ [Overview of the ECHR case law and other relevant Council of Europe resources related to Freedom of Expression and the Broadcasting Media](#)

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.

