

αρχή

ΡαδιοΤηλεόρασης
Κύπρου

**Marianna Aletrari, Radio Television Officer
Cyprus Radio Television Authority
25.10.2010**

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

- PART ONE

Creation, mission and
functions of the Cyprus
Radio Television
Authority

- PART TWO

Existing Legislation

- Radio Television Law
 - Radio Television
Regulations

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

- PART ONE

Creation, mission and functions of the
Cyprus Radio Television Authority

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

- Established in 1998, as a result of the Cyprus Radio Television Law 7 (I)/98.
- Independent Regulatory Authority that regulates the creation, establishment and operation of private television and radio stations. Since 2004, CRTA partly regulates also the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC – PIK).
- Member of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities
- Member of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities – part of the General Secretariat of the Network

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

FUNCTIONS OF CRTA:

- Grant, revoke, renew and amend licenses for national, local and small local stations
- Monitor television and radio station programmes, examine possible violations of the existing legislation and impose sanctions
- Monitor international developments and submit suggestions to the Council of Ministers
- Check ownership status of the stations in order to ensure their independence and the exclusion of concentration tendencies, oligopoly or monopoly
- Prepare a report every 3 years regarding the development of pluralism and the concentration of shares in stations
- Ensure the journalistic and creative independence of those working in the field
- Issue circulars, instructions and recommendations for the observance of the principles of the press ethics code and the code of advertisements

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

- COUNCIL -consists of the President, Vice-President and 5 Council Members, appointed by the Council of Ministers for a period of 6 years
- DIRECTOR - appointed on the basis of a six year contract
- STAFF – Total of 25 employees:

Radio Television Officers	(18)
Secretarial Staff	(6)
Various indoor and outdoor tasks	(1)

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

MONITORING DEPARTMENT

- Monitoring radio and TV programmes after a complain or on its own accord and examination of possible violations of legislation
- Procedure set by the regulations (time consuming)
- Imposition of sanctions (recommendation, warning, fine, suspension of license or revoking of license)

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

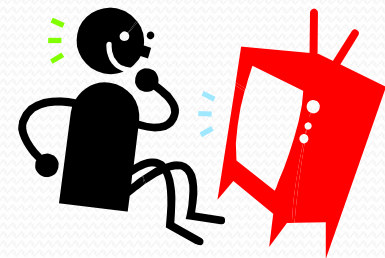
MONITORING DEPARTMENT -MAJOR ISSUES EXAMINED:

- Human rights (reputation, honor, privacy)
- Accuracy, objectivity and pluralism in informative programmes
- Inappropriate content (verbal/visual) or topics discussed
- Warning sign (rating) and family zone
- Quality of the content
- Advertising (frequency and duration of breaks, content, surreptitious advertising)
- Sponsorship
- Failure of payment of license fees
- Failure of publishing the financial statements
- Failure of submitting the essential certificates for the license activation
- Violation of license terms
- Change of ownership without the CRTA approval

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

Examination of Cases in 2009:

156 cases examined as follows:



- For 68 cases, the station was judged guilty and the imposition of sanction is pending
- For 60 cases, a fine was imposed
- For 18 cases a warning was imposed
- For 10 cases, the station was judged not guilty

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

LICENCING DEPARTMENT

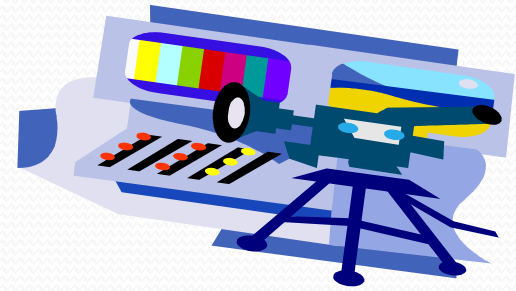
- Grants, revokes, renews and amends licenses for the creation, establishment and operation of private television and radio stations
- Types of licenses: national (pancyprian – all of Cyprus), local (one city) and small local (one community – village or region of a city – only for radio stations)
- Duration of licenses: 10 years for TV stations and 7 years for radio stations
- Currently there are a total of 73 stations (17 TV + 56 Radio)

Cyprus Radio Television Authority



RADIO STATIONS (56)

1. NATIONAL = 14
10 Private + 4 Public
2. LOCAL = 36
Nicosia -11
Limassol - 10
Larnaka - 6
Paphos - 6
Famagusta (Free Section) - 3
3. SMALL LOCAL = 6



TV STATIONS (17)

1. NATIONAL = 9
7 Private + 2 Public

2. LOCAL = 8

- Limassol - 3
- Paphos - 3
- Nicosia -1
- Larnaka - 1

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

- Deals with the appeals of the CRTA decisions to the Supreme Court
- Deals with the legal part of the applications for licensing submitted
- Deals with the pre-judicial objections set by the stations in examining a case
- Prepares amendments of the current legislation

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RESEARCH AREAS

- Conducted a research with the topic “Quality Criteria of Radio – TV Programmes in Cyprus” (2004-2005)
- Currently conducting a research with the topic “Violence and Crime of the Television Field in Cyprus and the Role of the Cyprus Radio Television Authority” (2010-2012)

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

REPORTS

- Prepares an annual report for CyBC to check the fulfillment of the CyBC's mission and whether it meets its quality characteristics and the quotas set for informative, cultural and entertainment type of programmes.
- Prepares a report every 2 years concerning the application of the European-works-provision (broadcasters should reserve to European works a majority proportion of their broadcasts – 50+ quota)
- Prepares a report every 3 years regarding the development of pluralism and the concentration of shares in stations

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

- PART TWO

Existing Legislation:

- Radio Television Law
- Radio Television Regulations

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION LAW 7(I)/98

MAJOR PROVISIONS CONCERNING CONTENT (PRINCIPLES)

26.-(1) The broadcasts of every licensed station should be governed by the principles –

- Of objectivity, fullness and topicality of information
- By the high quality,
- By pluralism and the greatest possible access of the public and its agencies,
- By the safeguarding of the quality of the language,
- By the respect of the personality, reputation and privacy of individuals –
- By the respect of the ideals of democracy and human rights
- The safeguarding of the national identity and the cultural heritage of the people of Cyprus.

26.-(2) News bulletins and topical programmes should be characterized by objectivity and pluralism, particularly regarding political issues but also any social matters which concern public opinion.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION LAW 7(I)/98

PROTECTION OF MINORS

29.- (1) The stations shall have the obligation to ensure that their broadcasts shall not include programmes which may seriously harm the physical, spiritual or moral development of minors and particularly programmes containing pornographic scenes or scenes of excessive violence.

- (2) The obligation envisaged in the above section (1) extends also to other programmes which are likely to harm the physical, spiritual or moral development of minors unless it is ensured, through the selection of the right time of broadcast of the programme or by other technical measures, that minors shall not watch or hear as a rule and systematically these broadcasts.

- (3) Regarding the programmes referred to in sub-sections (1) and (2) which are broadcasts in a non coded form, stations have the obligation to ensure that they are preceded by warning or are identified by the presence of a visual symbol during the time they are on.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION LAW 7(I)/98

COMBATING OF RACISM & DISCRIMINATIONS

30. Stations have an obligation to ensure that their broadcasts shall not include any incitement to hatred due to differences in race, gender, religion or citizenship.

PROTECTION OF LANGUAGE

31. The Minister of Education and Culture, for the promotion of the targets of the language policy, may, when he considers it necessary, by instructions to the Authority, define, regarding certain broadcasts or the broadcasts of stations as a whole, general or special criteria governing the quality of the language used and the compliance with the language policy of the Republic.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION LAW 7(I)/98 –ADVERTISING (FREQUENCY)

- 33.-(2)(a) The advertisement and telemarketing should be easily recognized as such and should be clearly distinguished from the rest of the programme with the use of visual and audio detection means.
- (d) Surreptitious advertisement and telemarketing shall be prohibited.
- (e) Advertisement and telemarketing should be shown in between broadcasts. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (f) to (i) of this sub-section, advertisement and telemarketing may be shown also during broadcasts, provided the integrity and value of broadcasts is not affected.
- (f) In broadcasts which consist of autonomous parts, in sport broadcasts and in events and shows of a corresponding structure which include breaks, advertisement and telemarketing may be shown only between the parts or during the breaks.
- (g) The broadcast of audiovisual works such as long films and works which have been produced for television (except the series of autonomous broadcasts, serial broadcasts, recreation broadcasts and documentaries) may be interrupted once for each forty five minute period on condition that their programmed duration exceeds forty five minutes. Another interruption is allowed, if their programme duration exceeds by at least twenty minutes the duration of two forty five minute period.
- (h) When advertisements or telemarketing messages are shown in broadcasts other than those envisaged in paragraph (f), a period of at least twenty minutes between two successive breaks during the broadcasts should be allowed.
- (i) During the broadcast of religious ceremonies no advertisements and telemarketing messages should be shown. Programmes of a topical nature, news bulletins, documentaries, broadcasts of a religious content and children's broadcasts with a planned duration shorter than thirty minutes should not be interrupted by the broadcast of advertisements or telemarketing. When the above programmes have a planned duration of at least thirty minutes, the provisions of the previous sub-sections shall apply.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION LAW 7(I)/98 –ADVERTISING (DURATION)

34.-(1) The percentage of broadcasting time allocated to a telemarketing message, advertising messages and other forms of advertisements, excluding time slots or telemarketing windows according to the meaning of section 34A should not exceed 20% of the daily broadcasting time. The broadcasting time of advertisement messages should not exceed 15% of the daily broadcasting time.

(2) The percentage of the time for broadcasting advertisement messages and telemarketing messages within any given hour should not exceed 20%.

(3) For the purposes of this section advertisement shall not include:

(i) The announcements of television station regarding its own programmes and the secondary products which are directly produced by these programmes

(ii) The advance announcement of news of a television or radio station or the moving text with news headlines which passes on the screen during any broadcast.

(iii) Television announcements and appeals for charitable causes which are broadcasted free.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION LAW 7(I)/98 –ADVERTISING (TOYS)

34.-(4) The advertisement of children's toys by stations coming under the jurisdiction of the Republic, should be prohibited:

- From morning until ten in the evening daily
- From morning until eleven in the evening during
- (i) school holidays as they are defined in the Regulations on the operation of secondary and primary education state schools for the time being
- (ii) Saturday and Sunday
- (iii) The days preceding the above.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION LAW 7(I)/98 (SPONSORSHIP)

35.(1) Television programmes which shall constitute an object of sponsorship should meet the following prerequisites:

- The sponsor should not influence the contents and the programming of the broadcast which he sponsors in a way affecting the responsibility and editorial processing of the broadcast by the station.
- The radio-television programme which shall constitute an object of sponsorship should be such as to be clearly identified by the name or the logo of the sponsor which is heard or is shown at the beginning or at the end of the programme.
- The radio-television programme which shall constitute an object of sponsorship should not incite people, particularly through specific advertising references, to buy or lease the products or the services of the sponsor or third parties.

(2) The sponsorship of a radio-television programme by a natural or legal person whose main activity consists of the manufacturing or sale of products, or the supply of services, the advertising of which is prohibited, according to sub-sections (4) and (4) of section 33 of this Law shall be prohibited.

(3) News bulletins and political informative broadcasts cannot constitute an object of sponsorship.

Provided that weather forecasts, stock exchange bulletins and exchange rate bulletins, as well as sport news shall be exempted from the above prohibition.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000

MAJOR PROVISIONS CONCERNING CONTENT

21.-(1) Stations shall take steps to ensure that the broadcasts have the quality level necessitated by the social mission of radio and television and the cultural development of the country.

(3) Stations shall be obliged to ensure, in all broadcasts (including advertisement) respect for the personality, honour, reputation, privacy, the professional, scientific, social, artistic, political or other related activity of every person, whose name appears on the screen or whose name is broadcast by a station or reference is made to, or particulars are broadcast about, him which lead to recognition of his identity. The above obligation extends to every person or in general the image of man as an individual or member of a group.

(4) Stations shall take steps in order to maintain the generally acceptable rules of decency and aesthetics in language and behaviour taking into account the type and framework of the broadcast each time. Particular care should be taken in the programs which are broadcasted at a time when minors may be watching.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000

MAJOR PROVISIONS CONCERNING CONTENT (CONTINUED)

21.- (5) Stations shall have the responsibility to ensure that viewers or listeners are always informed about the contents of the program they are watching.

(6) Stations shall ensure that the programs which are broadcast in the family zone are suitable for all people including children under fifteen.

(7) The whole broadcast of a station in its development during a day follows a normal **decline** regarding the suitability of the programs.

(8) The broadcast of programs which may harm the reputation of individuals, companies or organizations, should be avoided.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000 CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAMS - WARNINGS

22.-(1) On the basis of the criteria referred to in these Regulations warnings shall be given regarding the nature of the broadcast whether this is within the family zone or outside it. This warning shall have three forms –

- (a) written warning in the daily press and radio-television magazines,
- (b) verbal warning before the start of the broadcast,
- (c) visual, with a visual indication every ten minutes in the left lower part of the screen as follows:
 - (i)(K) in a green colour bracket for programs suitable for general viewing,
 - (ii)(12) in a yellow colour bracket for programs unsuitable for persons under the age of twelve,
 - (iii)(15) in a blue colour bracket for programs unsuitable for persons under the age of fifteen,
 - (iv)(18) in a red colour bracket for programs unsuitable for persons under the age of eighteen,
 - (v)(A) in brackets for programs of a strong sexual content.

(only for stations of coded broadcasts)

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000

NEWS BULLETINS

24.- (1) (a) The news bulletins shall be prepared and broadcasted with accuracy, objectivity, impartiality and the greatest possible completeness.

(b) Substantial mistakes in the broadcast of events shall be corrected during the same news bulletins, if they are pointed out or noticed on time. Otherwise they shall be corrected without fail in the next news bulletin.

24.- (2) The following rules shall apply to news bulletins and informative broadcasts:

(a) Dead persons should be accorded respect and should not be shown on television unless there is a serious reason,

(b) close ups in the case of dead and seriously injured persons as a result of war, accident or criminal act shall be forbidden,

© in general the show of close ups of bleeding persons or of persons who are in a state of great grief or anger, shall be avoided,

(d) the broadcast of any scenes unsuitable for minors or which are likely to offend against the sensitivities of viewers shall be brief and there shall be a visual or sound warning (verbal),

(e) special care shall be taken in reportages on violence against children, women, or aged persons which may cause fear, so that they may be prepared with sensitivity.

24.- (3) The broadcast of names of dead, injured or missing persons, of victims of ship wreckage, before it is absolutely established that the next of kin have been informed, shall be forbidden.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000 CONTENT OF ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES

26. In entertainment broadcasts there shall be forbidden –
- (a) Scenes of violence, when they are shown mainly in order to create excitement
 - (b) to show unusual tools or methods of causing pain or harm particularly when the imitation is easy,
 - (c) broadcasts which aim at, or have as a result, the encouragement, provocation or incitement to antisocial behaviour which contains the execution of violent crimes,
 - (d) to present smoking, the use of drugs and consumption of alcoholic beverages as a normal and exciting activity and in a manner which makes it a socially acceptable way of life for people
 - (e) scenes of violence or exercise of violence in general with minors as victims,
 - (f) broadcasts of scenes of extreme violence,
 - (g) the broadcasts of scenes which contain in detail the procedure of suicide or attempted suicide,
 - (h) scenes of violence in cartoons or other children's programs,
 - (j) scenes which contain humor at the expense of persons with special needs, intellectual or physical,
 - (k) the broadcast, within the family zone, of scenes which contain violence in the family.
 - (l) the broadcast of a dangerous behaviour which is likely to be imitated by the public
 - (m) the broadcast of programs insulting to the dignity of the two genders, racial, national, religious, groups or individuals with special needs.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000 PROTECTION OF MINORS

32.-(3)It is prohibited –

(a)The broadcast of programs within the family zone likely to harm seriously the physical, intellectual or moral development of minors and more specifically of programs which contain sexual scenes or violent scenes,

(b)the broadcast within the family zone of cartoon films which contain scenes of violence even if those who make them consider them as “films for children” ,

©the presentation of minors as witnesses to, or victims of, criminal actions or accidents in news and other informative broadcasts of stations. This shall be allowed only exceptionally and provided it is necessary for the information of the public and does not cause pain or harm to the personality of the minor and only following a written permission by the guardian,

(d)the publication of names of minors involved in police or court procedures and the broadcast of any information which may lead to the disclosure of their identity.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000 PRESS ETHICS CODE FOR ELECTRONIC MEDIA (ANNEX VIII) MAJOR PROVISIONS:

- ACCURACY
- PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
- RIGHT TO REPLY
- PRIVACY
- OBTAINING OF INFORMATION
- ACCESS TO INFORMATION
- BRIBES
- PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE
- SEX CRIMES
- DISCRIMINATIONS
- JOURNALISTIC CONFIDENTIALITY
- PUBLIC INTEREST
- NATIONAL SECURITY
- PROMOTION OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**VIOLATIONS EXAMINED ONLY AFTER AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED FROM THE
COMMITTEE OF JOURNALISTIC ETHICS**

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

RADIO TELEVISION REGULATIONS OF 2000

CODE OF ADVERTISEMENT, TELEMARKETING & SPONSORSHIP (ANNEX IX)

MAJOR PROVISIONS:

- BROADCAST OF ADVERTISEMENTS
- FALSE OR MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS
- PRODUCTS OR SERVICES UNACCEPTABLE FOR ADVERTISEMENT
- PROTECTION OF MINORS
- ADVERTISEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES
- ADVERTISEMENT OF MEDICINES AND MEDICAL TREATMENTS
- ADVERTISEMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
- SPONSORSHIP OF PROGRAMMES
- DURATION OF BREAKS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PROGRAMMES (3,5 MINUTES)
- IDENTIFICATION OF BREAKS IN SPORTS PROGRAMMES
- LONG ADVERTISEMENTS (DURATION)
- TELEMARKETING 'WINDOWS'
- PROMOTION OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Cyprus Radio Television Authority

CONTACT INFO:

42, ATHALASSAS AVENUE

TEL: 22-512 468

8000-4444 (24-hour)

FAX: 22-512 473

WEBSITE: www.crta.org.cy