

14 December 2006

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached a Russian translation of the report *Television across Europe: regulation, policy and independence*.

The **complete report**, available in English, is, at 1662 pages, the largest ever comparative survey of its kind. The three volumes include a regional overview and individual country reports focusing on broadcasting in twenty EU members, candidates and potential candidates:

Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Estonia; France; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Poland; Republic of Macedonia; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Turkey; the United Kingdom.

This **summary report**, available in English and in Russian, contains the regional overview, together with some main findings from each of the twenty individual country reports. The country reports and the general overview are also available in the national language(s) of each of the monitored countries, both in hard copies and online at www.eumap.org.

The report findings indicate that television remains the primary source of information for most people in Europe, but that the pivotal role of television in supporting democracy in Europe is currently under threat.

Public service broadcasters are compromising quality to compete with commercial channels, and many of them depend on Governments or political parties. Concentrations in the commercial sector often have clear political affiliations. Universally available high quality programmes in Europe are scarce and viewers do not receive the information necessary to make informed democratic choices.

These developments jeopardise broadcasting pluralism and diversity, with the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe most at risk. Whether the switchover to digital broadcasting will benefit the public remains to be seen. Digitalisation may instead enable leading commercial players to further erode public service broadcasting, undermining pluralism and diversity, as well as high quality content.

The report contains a series of recommendations for national governments, the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE), and other interested parties. These include calls to: support the dual system of public and private broadcasters; ensure the independence of broadcasting regulators; establish a European independent agency to monitor media markets and media concentration; ensure that public service broadcasters' programming complies with a clear public service remit; develop local television stations and community media; adopt legislation ensuring transparency of

ownership of all media outlets; develop clear action plans for digital broadcasting, particularly in transition countries.

We produced this translation into Russian because of the relevance that the experience of the twenty countries covered in the report can have also for countries beyond the monitored region. We hope that you will find this report of interest and use in your activity. For additional copies of the report or for any further information on the report please do not hesitate to contact us.

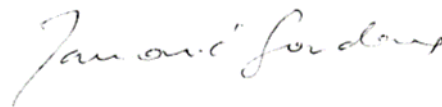
With best regards,



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