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ave

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Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act (ZRTVS-2)

Dear Brankica,

Further to your second request, I have had a closer look at the Radio and Television Corporation of Slovenia Act (ZRTVS-2).

Although, for the reasons I explained earlier, I am unfortunately not in a position to undertake a comprehensive review of the Act, I can give you my overall assessment.

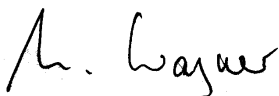
The Act modernises the legal framework for public service broadcasting in Slovenia, it accommodates new requirements under European Union law, it clarifies the public service remit of Radiotelevizija Slovenija, in particular in the new media field, and also the framework for commercial activities, it provides for a more stable and secure basis for public funding and ensures more transparency in the use of the licence fee, and it strengthens the role of civil society in the governing structure of Radiotelevizija Slovenija.

We are especially pleased that the Act takes up some suggestions which the EBU made in May 2005, in a letter to the Minister of Culture of the time, Dr Vasko Simoniti.

In my view, the Act should therefore be considered an important step in the right direction, which reconciles editorial independence and public accountability, and which modernises the legal framework to make Radiotelevizija Slovenija ready for the challenges of the new digital environment. The fact that one or two details in the Act, including the exact composition of the governing bodies, which is always a very sensitive matter, may give rise to arguments at the national level should not overshadow the merits of the overall framework.

I hope that this information will be of assistance to you.

Kind regards,



Michael A. Wagner
Deputy Director
Legal Department