

SLOVAKIA

ACT No 254/1991 ON SLOVAK TELEVISION AS AMENDED BY LATER REGULATIONS

The Slovak National Council has adopted this Act :

PART I THE ESTABLISHMENT, STATUS AND ROLE OF SLOVAK TELEVISION

§ 1

- (1) This Act establishes Slovak Television with its registered office in Bratislava.
- (2) Slovak Television comprises the Bratislava Studio, the Banská Bystrica Studio and the Košice studio.

§ 2

- (1) Slovak Television is a national, independent, information, cultural and educational public service institution.
- (2) Slovak Television is a legal entity.
- (3) As a non-profit making organization, Slovak Television is financially directly linked to the state budget of the Slovak Republic, in which it has reserved a separate chapter.
- (4) Slovak Television is included in the Register of Companies.

§ 3

- (1) The role of Slovak Television is to serve the public by producing and broadcasting programmes based on the principles of democracy, humanism, ethics, truthfulness, independence, professionalism and the rule of law.
- (2) The news and current affairs programmes of Slovak Television serve to provide topical and unbiased information to the public, artistic, educational and entertainment programmes serve to promote and disseminate national culture, to enhance the educational, spiritual and moral standards of society.
- (3) Slovak Television also caters for the interests of the national minorities and ethnics groups living in the Slovak Republic through television broadcasts in their respective mother tongues.

§ 4

- (1) In addition to producing and broadcasting its own programmes, Slovak Television also fulfils its tasks by taking over and broadcasting programmes produced by other legal entities or natural persons.
- (2) Slovak Television has an obligation to provide broadcasting time to the state authorities necessary for emergency messages and other important public announcements.

§ 5

Slovak Television has the obligation of storing and keeping programme archives, archives of major documentaries and other holdings as valuable national cultural properties. The rules for keeping the archives of television programmes representing valuable national cultural properties are approved by the Council of Slovak Television (Art. 7) upon a proposal by the Director General of Slovak Television (Art. 11), in compliance with the applicable generally binding legislation.¹

§ 6

The Slovak Television fulfils, in particular, the following tasks:

- it sets up television studios, programme production and research departments, it develops its own network of correspondents both at home and abroad,
- it establishes its own and in agreement with other television companies, joint broadcasting channels and makes a proportionate contribution to their programme schedule,
- it cooperates with the state, political, social, religious, research and development, economic, cultural, artistic, educational and sports institutions and civic associations,
- it carries out transmission of public, political, social, cultural, artistic, religious and sporting events and meetings,
- it conducts programme market survey, especially as regards viewer's rating of the quality of television programmes,
- it takes part, within the sphere of its responsibilities, in the activities of international organizations and concludes agreements with foreign institutions,

- it acquires, produces, broadcasts, processes and duplicates audio, visual and audiovisual recordings on storage media and carries out commercial activities in the area,
- it organizes public performances and productions, sets up artistic groups for TV programme production purposes,
- it establishes and employs comprehensive data banks to support its own operation and to provide a prompt information service, linked to the domestic and foreign information networks,
- it contributes, by means of television broadcasting, to promoting national culture and the cultures of the minorities living in the Slovak Republic, and to mediating the cultural values of other nations.

PART II MANAGEMENT OF SLOVAK TELEVISION

§ 7

The Council of Slovak Television

The Council of Slovak Television (hereinafter "Council") is a body of Slovak Television which guarantees its programme unbiasedness and independence.

§ 8

(1) The Council has nine members elected and dismissed by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. Proposals for members of the Council can be submitted by the appropriate Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the Council, professional or civic associations from the field of culture and by means of the periodical press. A member of the Council can be dismissed if:

- a) he/she fails to attend three consecutive Council meetings without appropriate excuse;
- b) he/she has been duly sentenced for a deliberate criminal offence;
- c) he/she was discharged from the competence to make legal acts or this competence was limited to him;
- d) causes will come into being under the rule of the section 5.

(2) Functional period of the Council is four years and begins by the members of the Council's election (section 1). The first council is arranged by the head of the National Council of the Slovak Republic till 15 days from the election of the Council's members. At the first council the Council elects its chairman and vicechairman."

(3) If a member renounces his membership in the Council during the functional period or if he is withdrawn (section 1), National Council of the Slovak Republic elects, till 60 days, a new member of the Council for the time remaining till the end of the functional period.

(4) A member of the Council is rewarded for the execution of his/her function and his travel costs are reimbursed according to individual regulations. 1) The amount of the reward is determined by the Statute of the Council. The costs incurred by the activities of the Council and its members are covered from the budget of Slovak Television.

(5) The following cannot become members of the Council: the President of the Republic, a deputy of a legislative body, member of the Government, head of a central body of the public administration, state secretary, prosecutor, judge, member of the armed forces, officer of a political party or political movement, persons employed by or having a legal relationship with a legal entity or a natural person operating a radio or television broadcasting organization, persons working in the area of advertising and entrepreneurs, or person related to them, who work in the field of radio or television broadcasting.

(6) The Council sets up its own advisory and consulting bodies.

§ 9

Deleted

§ 10

The responsibilities of the Council include:

- approving longterm plans and concepts, draft investment plans and their implementation, including the broadcasting schedule,

- approving the Statute of Slovak Television and the Statute of the Slovak Television Programme Makers,
- making decisions on broadcasting time allocations to political parties, movements and civic associations, and on restrictions on the broadcasting of commercial advertisements,
- approving the Programme Code of Slovak Television, laying down the general principles governing the creation, structure and coordination of Slovak Television's programmes,
- approving the draft of Slovak Television's budget,
- approving the accounting deadline and the results of the economy of the Slovak Television
- approving the organizational order of Slovak Television,
- establishing the salary of the General Director. The General Director is entitled to a monthly salary equal to the double the salary of a member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.
- General Director

§ 11

- (1) General Director is elected and dismissed by the National Council of the Slovak Republic upon a proposal by the Council.
- (2) The term of office for the General Director is four years, and the same person can be elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms of office.
- (3) The General Director constitutes a statutory body of Slovak television, he/she represents the Slovak Television in its external relations, has managerial responsibility for the organization of work and holds the role of the chief executive officer of the organisation under the labour law regulations.
- (4) The General Director shall attend all the meetings of the Council.

PART III

COMMON, PROVISIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 13

Organizers of public meetings, performances, productions and other events shall give Slovak television, upon request, the possibility to broadcast and record the event for news broadcasting purposes. Neither the transmission nor the recording can present a substantial interference with the event. The rights of authors and performing artists given⁴ by special regulations are observed.

§ 14

Slovak Television protects and respects the independence of all producers and the freedom of professional expression of all creative television workers in carrying out their assignments.

§ 15

- (1) Slovak Television's Statute lays down the principles of internal organization and specifies, in necessary detail, the tasks of Slovak television as well as the signs, symbols, names and tune.
- (2) The signs, symbols, names and tune cannot be used by another organization or person without previous consent from Slovak Television.
- (3) The Council shall submit its draft statute to the Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic for approval not later than 30 days after its first meeting (Art. 8, sec. 2)

§ 15a

Functional period of the members of the Council elected according to the present rules ends by this act's going into effect.

§ 16

- (1) With respect to labour relations, Slovak Television is a successor to the rights and responsibilities of CzechoSlovak Television in Slovakia.
- (2) The division and transfer of assets and legal settlement of other property related matters between CzechoSlovak Television and Slovak Television shall take place according to separate regulations⁵ within three months from the establishment of Slovak Television.

§ 17

Deleted

§ 18

The following provisions are deleted:

Art. 5, § 3, first sentence of Act No. 18/1964 Coll. on Czechoslovak Television

Art. 13, Act of the Slovak National Council No. 207/1968 Coll. on the Establishment of Ministries and Other Central Bodies of the Public Administration of the Slovak Socialist Republic, insofar as it applies to the Regional Directorate of Czechoslovak television in Slovakia and its regional director.

§ 19

This Act comes into effect on 1 July, 1991.

ARTICLE II. of the Act No. 482/1992 Zb.

The term of office for the Council appointed according § 8 of the Act of the Slovak National Council No. 254/1991 Coll. On the Slovak television will be finished by the first regular meeting of the Council in the sense of this Act.

Act No 482/1992 Coll. Came into force on 26th October 1992, Act No 166/1993 Coll. Came into force on 30th July 1993

Act No 82/1995 Coll. Came into force on 27th April 1995, Act No 320/1996 Coll. Came into force on 19th November 1996

Act No 321/1996 Coll. Came into force on 19th November 1996, Act No 335/1998 Coll. Came into force on 9th November 1998

1 Act No 149/1975 on Archive filing

1) Act No 119/1992 Coll. On travel reimbursement

4 Act No 35/1965 Col. On literary, scientific and artistic works /authors act/ as amended by the Act No 89/1990 Coll. /the full wording proclaimed under No 247/1990 Coll.

5 § 4 of the Act No 136/1991 Coll. On the division of responsibilities between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic in the matter of press and other informative media.

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