



OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

**DATE**

13 July 2020

**BY EMAIL**

xxxx@xxxx

**SUBJECT**

Concern over future of PSM in Slovenia

Dear Mr Janša

I am writing to express the profound concern of the European Broadcasting Union over the future of Public Service Media (PSM) in Slovenia. We are aware that RTVSLO has been exposed to a series of hostile and frequently unsubstantiated comments over the last months, and are concerned by the exceptionally short time envisaged for public debate on potential changes to the legal and financial frameworks of Slovenia's national public media

As we have seen with public broadcasters across Europe during the COVID-19 crisis, RTVSLO continued to play its role in the face of huge challenges, in order to deliver vital and trusted information, educational programmes, cultural, music, sports and entertainment content to citizens isolated by confinement.

According to a survey conducted by the Mediana Institute, more than 80% of frequent users of RTVSLO appreciate their public service. High levels of trust are also reflected in the audience ratings of RTVSLO 1 which increased by 1.5% points in March and April, while users of RTVSLO online content almost doubled over the same period, from 200,000 users a day viewing two million items to 350,000 users viewing four million items. The survey's data underscore high levels of public recognition of RTVSLO as a key democratic institution with an important remit in society.

As is the case for Public Service Media across Europe, RTVSLO's remit requires adequate, stable and predictable funding to serve all segments of society and offer programmes for all groups and minorities with a high level of commitment and professionalism. Its role is also to scrutinize, investigate and, if necessary, call out wrongdoings through impartial investigative programmes.

The EBU understands that the proposed amendments to the legal framework of RTVSLO envisage changes to the financial framework that would result in a budget decrease of 13 million EUR. This significant change requires appropriate debate with all relevant stakeholders, in line with common democratic practice in Europe. Such a debate will allow all points of view to be considered and comply with European standards.

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According to Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation No R (96) 10 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Guarantee of the Independence of Public Broadcasting “ the rules governing the funding of public service broadcasting organisations (...) should establish an appropriate, secure and transparent funding framework which guarantees public service broadcasting organisations the means necessary to accomplish their missions”. Accordingly, best practices in Europe show that the best solutions are found in appropriate public debates where the funding is considered in the context of remit and mission in society.

RTVSLO has been engaged in active discussions with its audiences, the civil sector and stakeholders over challenges that stem from the fact that the licence fee, which constitutes the most important part of its budget, is unchanged since 2012, whereas content and quality demands have constantly increased in a fast-developing economic, social and technological environment.

I trust that you will allocate proper time for discussion of the proposed amendments to the legal and financial frameworks of PSM, in line with European standards and best practices, and allow for appropriate debate on PSM's mission and role in society and the resources for the fulfilment of its remit and contribution to society.

Kind regards,

Noel Curran



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Yours sincerely,

Name Surname  
Job title

# EBU

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