



OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

DATE

12 November 2015

BY EMAIL

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REFERENCE

DG/rb/sg

Mr. Kadri Veseli

President of the Assembly of
the Republic of Kosovo

Dear Mr Veseli,

As you may know, the European Broadcasting Union represents the interests of all public service broadcasters in Europe. Although RTK is not yet a full Member of the EBU (as Kosovo is so far not an ITU member state) the EBU has a particular interest in RTK, having largely been instrumental in its foundation.

As I feel sure you are aware, fully functioning public service media is an essential element of modern democracy and encourages social cohesion and stability. Additionally, Kosovo does not want to lose its own information sources that share the values, culture and traditions of the country itself.

It was therefore with considerable surprise, and alarm, that we learnt of the imminent crisis at RTK regarding its funding for 2016 and beyond. In particular, we understand that there is no clear procedure for agreeing RTK's budget for 2016. The consequences, if this is not rectified, could be catastrophic for RTK and for the very future of public service media in Kosovo.

Adequate funding, stable governance, and sustainability of independent public service broadcasting are principles underlying the European standards set by the Council of Europe, and upheld by the European Union since its Amsterdam Protocol of 1997.

For these reasons I would like to urge the Government of Kosovo to consider two courses of action: urgently, to find a short-term solution to secure adequate funding for RTK in 2016. Without this, its very existence will be in jeopardy. However, that alone is not sufficient: longer term needs must also be addressed and for this a household fee would be suitable, which is a common practice throughout Europe.

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RTK needs an appropriate level of guaranteed funding to fulfil its public service remit. With proper funding and effective governance, accountability, and independence, we feel confident that RTK can be expected to uphold the values for which public service media stands throughout Europe. In this way, it can play an important role in supporting and encouraging social cohesion and stability in Kosovo and in preparing your country for its European integration. I am certain that that is an objective that we both share.

I hope your response will be to urgently initiate the action required to accomplish this.

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Deltenre
Director General

In copy: Mr. Isa Mustafa, Prime Minister, Republic of Kosovo
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