

*Konferencë me
Kuvendin dhe
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EUROPEAN UNION - BASHKIMI EVROPIAN

DELEGATION TO ALBANIA
DELEGACIONI NE SHQIPERI
The Head of Delegation
Shefi i Delegacionit



*Shërbimet Parlamentare
Shërbimet*

Tirana, 19 June 2015.
AB/mm Ares(2015)2584825

Subject: Your request for technical assistance with regard to proposed amendments to Audiovisual Media Law on ownership limitations

Dear Mr Meta,

Following your letter of 26 May 2015 requesting that the EU Delegation provide technical assistance with regard to an amendment submitted to the parliament in April, aiming to abolish ownership limitations for all audiovisual media, I would like to express EU's serious concern about the effect such changes could have on the pluralism of the media landscape in Albania.

We believe, as do the Council of Europe and the OSCE that the amendment would potentially negatively affect competition among audiovisual media creating a risk of monopolisation and provide for media groups' concentration and therefore have a negative impact in the media freedom in Albania.

Media freedom and pluralism are central values of the European Union, and the role of the media is vital in guaranteeing transparency and accountability in a democratic society.

In this regard, the EU cannot provide technical assistance to amendments that would run against EU standards and best practices.

As was stressed in a letter from Michela Matuella, Head of Unit for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina at DG NEAR to the AMA Chair, the European Commission urges the Albanian authorities to respect ownership limitations as foreseen by the Audiovisual Media Law.

Yours sincerely,

Romana Vlahutin
Ambassador

Mr Ilir META
Speaker of the Parliament of Albania
Tirana