

The Act on Slovak Television

ACT No. 254/1991 Coll.
of the Slovak National Council
of 24 May 1991
on Slovak Television

as amended by later regulations +)

The Slovak National Council has adopted this Act:

PART ONE

Establishment, status and role of Slovak Television

Art. 1

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

Art. 2

- 1. Slovak Television is a national, independent, information, cultural and educational public service institution.**
- 2. Slovak Television is a legal entity.**
- 3. Like a non-profit (contributory) organisation, 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 enters into the Company Register.**

Art. 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 early and unbiased information to the public; artistic, educational and entertainment programmes serve to promote and disseminate national culture and education, to enhance the spiritual and moral standards of the society.**
- 3. Slovak Television also caters for the interests of the national minorities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic through television broadcasts in their mother**

tongues.

Art. 4

1. In addition to producing and broadcasting its own programmes, Slovak Television also fulfills its tasks by taking over and broadcasting programmes produced by other legal entities or natural persons.

2. Slovak Television has the obligation to provide broadcasting time to the state authorities necessary for emergency messages and other important public announcements.

Art. 5

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

1) The Act of Slovak National Council No. 149/1975 Coll. on Archives

Art. 6

Slovak Television fulfills, in particular, the following tasks:

- a) it sets up television studios, programme production and research departments, it develops its own network of correspondents both at home and abroad,**
- b) it establishes its own or, in agreement with other television companies, joint broadcasting channels and makes a proportionate contribution to their programme schedule,**
- c) it cooperates with the state, political, social, religious, research and development, economic, cultural, artistic, education and sports institutions and civic associations,**
- d) it carries out transmissions of public political, social, cultural, artistic, religious, sport events and meetings,**
- e) it conducts programme market survey, especially as regards viewers' rating of the quality of television programmes,**
- f) it takes part, within the sphere of its competence, in the activities of international organisations and concludes agreements with foreign institutions,**
- g) it acquires, produces, broadcasts, processes and duplicates audio, visual and audiovisual recordings on the storage media and carries out commercial activities in this area,**
- h) it organizes public performances of production, sets up artistic groups for TV programme production purposes,**
- i) it establishes and employs comprehensive data banks to support its own operation and to provide prompt information service, linked to the domestic and foreign information networks,**
- j) it contributes, by means of television broadcasting, to promoting national culture**

and cultures of minorities living in the Slovak Republic, and to mediating cultural values of other nations.

PART TWO

Management of Slovak Television

Art 7

The Council of Slovak Television ("council" hereinafter) is a body which guarantees the unbiasedness and independence of the Slovak Television programmes.

Art. 8

1. The council has nine members elected and revoked by the National Council of Slovak Republic. Proposal for the members of the Council can be submitted by the appropriated Committee of the National Council of Slovak Republic, members of the National Council of Slovak Republic, the Council, professional or civic associations from the field of culture and press. A member of the Council can be called off 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) or reasons arise following Art. 5.**

2. Council members are appointed for a four-year term of office which starts on the date of their election (par. 1). First regular meeting of the Council convenes the Chairman of The National Council of Slovak Republic not later than 15 days after election date. At first meeting the Council elects its chairman and vicechairman.

3. If the council member surrendered the office or was called off (par. 1) during his term of office, the National Council of Slovak Republic shall elect new council member for time remaining in the term of office of a council member whose place has become vacant. New member shall be elected within 60 days from the date on which the seat of a council member became vacant.

4. A member of the council is rewarded for the execution of his/her function as well as 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 Slovak Television budget.

5. A member of council must not be President of the Republic, deputy of a legislative body, member of the Government, head of a central body of public administration, state secretary, prosecutor, judge, member of armed corps, 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 organisation, persons working in the area of advertising and entrepreneur, if he/she himself/herself or person related to him/her, works in the field of radio or television broadcasting.

6. The council sets up its own advisory and consulting bodies.

1) Act No. 119/1992 Coll. on Reimbursement of Travel Expenses as amended by later regulations

Art. 9

Deleted from 26 October 1992

Art. 10

Competence of the council includes

- a) approving longterm plans and concepts, draft investment plans and their implementation, including the type broadcasting schedule,**
- b) approving the Statute of Slovak Television and the Statute of Slovak Television programme makers,**
- c) making decisions on broadcasting time allocations to political parties, movements and civic associations, and on restrictions on the broadcasting of commercial advertisement,**
- d) approving the Programme Code of Slovak Television, laying down the general principles governing the creation, structure and coordination of Slovak Television programmes,**
- e) approving the draft of the Slovak Television budget,**
- f) approving the account balance and results of Slovak Television economy,**
- g) approving the Organisation Order of Slovak Television,**
- h) establishing the salary of the Director General. The Director General is entitled to a monthly salary equal to the double salary of a member of the National Council of Slovak Republic.**

Art. 11

Director General

- 1. The Director General is elected and called off by the National Council of the Slovak Republic upon a proposal of the council.**
- 2. The term of office for the Director General is four years, whereas the same person can be elected for two consecutive terms of office as a maximum.**
- 3. The Director General constitutes a statutory body of Slovak Television, he/she represents the Slovak Television in its external relations, has managerial responsibility for the organisation of work and holds the role of the chief executive officer of the organisation under the labour law regulations.**

4. The Director General shall attend all the meetings of the council.

Art. 12

Deleted from 26 October 1992

PART THREE

Common, transition and final provisions

Art. 13

Organizers of public meetings, performances, productions and other events shall give the Slovak Television, upon request, the possibility to broadcast and record the event for the news broadcasting purposes. Neither the transmission nor the recording can present a substantial interference with the event. The rights of authors and performing artists given by special regulations 4) are observed.

4) The Act No. 35/1965 Coll. on literary, scientific and artistic works (copyright act) as amended by the Act No. 89/1990 Coll. (full wording laid down in the Act No. 247/1990 Coll.)

Art. 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 tasks.

Art. 15

1. The Slovak Television Statute lays down the principles of internal organisation 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 organisation or person without a previous consent of the 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 par. 2).

Art. 15a

Term of office of council elected according to present regulations shall finish by coming into force of this act.

Art 16

1. With respect to labour relations, Slovak Television is a successor to the rights and responsibilities of Czecho-Slovak Television in Slovakia.

2. The division and transfer of assets and legal settlement of other property-related

matters between the Czecho-Slovak Television and Slovak Television shall take place according to separate regulations 5) within three months from the establishment of Slovak Television.

5) Art. 4 of the Act No. 136/1991 Coll. on force division between Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in matters concerning press and another information means

Art 17

Deleted from 26 October 1992

Art. 18

The following provisions are deleted:

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

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

Art. 19

This Act takes effect as of 1 July 1991.

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- Act No. 482/1992 Coll., effect from 26 October 1992**
- Act No. 166/1993 Coll., effect from 30 July 1993**
- Act No. 82/1995 Coll., effect from 27 April 1995**
- Act No. 321/1996 Coll., effect from 19 November 1996**
- Act No. 335/1998 Coll., effect from 9 November 1998**