

Response of Albanian Authorities with regard to the alert “Heavy fines and shutdown threat against Albanian TV Channel”

In the framework of monitoring the audio-visual broadcasts, based on the law no. 97/2013 "On audio-visual media in the Republic of Albania" as amended, and within the guidelines published by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in the case of natural disaster, Audio-visual Media Authority (AMA), has identified violations during the program "360 Degrees" - TV "Ora News" on 11.5. 2020, due to non-compliance with the physical distancing. During the program in question in the television studio were more than 2 people. In the context of global pandemic and considering the protection of the health of the citizens as a priority, AMA has drawn the attention of the “RTV Ora News, on 13.05.2020 to respect the Normative Act no. 3, dated 15.03.2020, "On taking special administrative measures during the period of infection caused by Covid 19".

In a separate proceeding the State Health Inspectorate based on Normative Act no. 3 imposed on May 14, 2020, the administrative fine of 1 000 000 ALL against the subject "ORA" for violation of this Normative Act, after ascertaining the presence of more than two persons, in several television shows.

On May 15 2020, State Health Inspectorate proceeded again against the subject "Ora", for repeated administrative violations of the Administrative Act, giving two administrative decision: - Closing the program “360 degree show" and an additional administrative decision of 1 000 000 ALL fine for this subject.

On May 20, 2020, ISHSH, Tirana Regional Branch, based on law no. 10433, dated 16.06.2011, "On inspection" has decided to repeal the administrative act "Interim decision of urgent measure" dated 15 May 2020.

Based on the relevant legislation, the subjects have the right to appeal to the administrative bodies, as well as to the Court, regarding the fine imposed on May 14, 2020.

Meanwhile, the work on Ora News Television continues normally.