

## CONTENT OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING: NEUTRALITY, QUALITY, DIVERSITY

"Public broadcasting is a public service. Public broadcasters have obligations ranging from the provision of a universal service, to some form of social representation, to the provision of a wide range of quality programmes. In return, they enjoy a privileged access to resources and facilities.

Public service broadcasting must be free from the constraining forces of the state and, on the other hand, enjoy autonomy and independence from the market place. [...] [It] is typically universal in terms of content and access; it guarantees editorial independence and impartiality; it provides a benchmark of quality; it offers a variety of programmes and services catering for the needs of all groups in society and is publicly accountable. [...]."

CDL-AD(2005)017, Opinion on the compatibility of the laws "Gasparri" and "Frattini" of Italy with the Council of Europe standards in the field of freedom of expression and pluralism of the media, §§52 and 54