

CONTENT OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING: NEUTRALITY, QUALITY, DIVERSITY

"However, it is questionable whether 'balance' should become an enforceable legal obligation of every particular media taken alone. The norms under consideration create a very complex obligation on the media and lack precision. **How can information be 'balanced'?** One can understand balance of opinion, but information (facts) needs to be thorough and accurate, not 'balanced'. How quickly has the 'balance' to be achieved when the programme is a 'series of programmes regularly shown'? Should the 'balance' be assessed in quantitative or more in qualitative terms? In addition, 'facts' cannot always be clearly distinguished from 'opinions'; after all, it is difficult to imagine an anchor-man not using any adjective, while every adjective gives a flavour of an 'opinion' to a statement of fact. In sum, the vagueness of the terms employed in two acts may turn those provisions into a tool of suppression of the free speech [...]."