

Ukraine: New draft Bill Risks Interfering with the Editorial Policy of the Public Service Media

On 11 July 2017, draft Law No 6681 “On Amending Article 18 of the Law of Ukraine “On Public Broadcaster of Ukraine” (on the coverage of the activities of executive bodies, other state bodies, the local authorities, and their officials in mass media of Ukraine)” was submitted to the Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) of Ukraine for consideration.

According to the existing procedure, on 4 April 2018 this draft Law was considered during the meeting of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Freedom of Speech and Information Policy.

As a result of consideration, on 4 April 2018 the Committee elaborated an expert Opinion regarding draft Law No 6681, which reads that the bill in question requires additional specification as to the mechanism and scope of the implementation of the provisions of other laws relating to the Law of Ukraine “On Public Broadcaster of Ukraine”.

The Committee decided to recommend to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to reject draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendment of Article 18 of the Law of Ukraine “On Public Broadcaster of Ukraine” (on the coverage of the activities of bodies of executive power, other state bodies, the local authorities, and their officials in mass media of Ukraine)”.

In view of the above, draft Law No 6681 was not put to the vote by the Ukrainian Parliament.

All draft legislation in Ukraine, before being submitted for voting to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, is subject to a number of expert consultations, hearings, and expertise, carried out by international experts and representatives of international organizations, including those of the Council of Europe, which also provide their conclusion as to the admissibility of every draft law.

Given that draft Law No 6681 was found to be subject to rejection, we kindly request that this case be indicated as resolved as no longer topical and thus posing no threat to the independence of public broadcasting.