[AM] Armenia adopts criteria on war-related content in audiovisual programmes

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Anna Hovhanisyan
Commission on TV and Radio of Armenia

On 11 September 2026, the Commission on Television and Radio of the Republic of Armenia (CTR) adopted Decision No. 109-N establishing criteria for applying the prohibition of audiovisual content that calls for war, or encourages or justifies such actions.

The decision was adopted pursuant to Article 9(6) of the Audiovisual Media Act, which authorises the CTR to establish criteria for assessing compliance with the restrictions prescribed by Article 9(1)(1) of the Act.

Under the newly adopted criteria, the assessment of audiovisual content must be based on a comprehensive examination of the programme's content, manner of presentation, message and context, rather than on individual statements considered in isolation.

The criteria cover, in particular, calls, instructions, demands or proposals to initiate, resume, continue or expand a war. They also address statements that present war or related actions as necessary or inevitable, desirable, preferable, exemplary, permissible, lawful or socially acceptable. Expressions supporting participation in war, as well as statements praising or positively evaluating war or its continuation or expansion, are also taken into consideration.

The decision further specifies that the criteria do not apply to informational, analytical, scientific, educational, documentary or artistic audiovisual materials concerning war, armed conflicts, national security, defence, international relations, historical events or the humanitarian consequences of military operations, unless their overall content, presentation, message or context contains calls for war or encourages or justifies such actions.

In assessing audiovisual content, the CTR must also consider whether opposing views were presented, whether the statements were critically examined, or whether the surrounding context excluded their interpretation as advocating, encouraging, justifying or endorsing war. Where such content is disseminated during a live broadcast, the provisions of Article 9(2) of the Act apply.

The decision also clarifies that presenting a statement as a personal opinion or assessment does not, in itself, exclude its qualification as content falling within

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the scope of the restrictions. The assessment depends on the substance and context of the message rather than on how the speaker characterises it.

Finally, the criteria do not apply to audiovisual information concerning war, its consequences, or actions aimed at the defence or self-defence of the Republic of Armenia, where such information has been recognised or published through an official communication, decision or other legal act of a competent state authority.

The decision entered into force on 17 September 2026.

Հեռուստատեսության և ռադիոյի հանձնաժողովի որոշումը տեսալսողական հաղորդումներում պատերազմի կոչ անող, այդպիսի գործողությունները խրախուսող կամ արդարացնող տեղեկատվության տարածման չարաշահման արգելքների չափորոշիչները սահմանելու մասին

https://www.arlis.am/hy/acts/231002/latest

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