[SI] Referenda reject the Parliamentary Inquiry Act and the abolition of the television licence fee

IRIS 2026-10:1/5

Deirdre Kevin
COMMSOL

On 26 May 2026, the Slovenian government adopted amendments to the Parliamentary Inquiry Act via a fast-track procedure, reducing the possibility for individuals, including journalists, witnesses and civil society organisations, to request a review of the constitutionality and legality of inquiries by the Constitutional Court (see IRIS 2026-8:1/16). Journalists' organisations, civil society, human rights experts and opposition representatives in the Assembly have expressed concern that the removal of these additional safeguards represents a threat to fundamental rights. Journalists also expressed concerns about the threat to the protection of journalists with regard to confidentiality of sources and surveillance restrictions, as protected under the European Media Freedom Act. In a legislative referendum held on 11 October 2026, 51.36% of the voters rejected these changes to the Law. The result of such a referendum is legally binding. When a law is rejected, the National Assembly cannot adopt a law with substantially the same content for one year.

On the same day, the government held a consultative referendum on the licence fee for the public service broadcaster (*Radiotelevizija Slovenija* – RTV *Slovenija*), asking whether this fee should be abolished. A very slim majority rejected the abolition of the public service broadcaster licence fee, with just 50.04% against this proposal and 49.96% in favour. Consultative referendums have no legally binding effect and are generally used to gauge public opinion.

STA 12/10/2026, Referendum result shifts as 50.04% vote against scrapping TV licence fee

https://english.sta.si/3609660/referendum-result-shifts-as-50-04-vote-against-scrapping-tv-licence-fee

© European Audiovisual Observatory (Council of Europe) 2026

© European Audiovisual Observatory (Council of Europe) 2026