[MD] Adoption of a new law on mass media

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A new general legal framework for media activity, the Law on the Mass Media, was adopted on 24 August 2026 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Moldova. It was published in the Official Gazette (*Monitorul Oficial*) on 23 September 2026 and will enter into force on 23 March 2027. This new legislation will replace the Statute on the Press, adopted in 1994.

The Law on the Mass Media introduces rules on the transparency of the ownership and financing of media service providers and on non-interference of the State in the professional matters of such providers. It also provides guarantees of editorial independence and the rights and duties of journalists, as well as mechanisms to protect pluralism in the media. The law aims to further align national legislation with the EU standards, in particular the European Media Freedom Act.

One of its main innovations is the creation of the Register of Transparency of Ownership and Financing of Media Service Providers, managed by the Ministry of Culture (Chapter IV of the the law). The Audiovisual Council, the national regulatory authority, will oversee compliance of the audiovisual media service providers with the accuracy and sufficiency of the data provided for the Register. The Register shall be publicly accessible “in a simple, free and direct manner” and regularly updated (Art. 14, para 3). The law instructs the Audiovisual Council to develop and adopt methodology to enable its assessment of market concentration and its negative influence on media pluralism and editorial independence. Once such influence is detected, the Audiovisual Council, together with the Council on Competition, will take steps to end negative trends.

The law recognises the Press Council, a Moldovan NGO, as the self-regulatory body for media service providers and journalists. This body operates based on the principles of independence, fairness and transparency, guided by the Moldovan Journalist’s Code of Ethics. While its decisions are consultative, they may be appealed in court (Art. 17).

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