[HU] National Radio and Television Commission Imposes Fine on Pannon Radio

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The National Radio and Television Commission (NRTC) on 26 October 2001 filed a first written notice to Pannon Radio, a regional commercial broadcaster, in relation to its program entitled "Standard" and imposed a fine of HUF 1 Million (about EUR 4,078).

In September 2001, during the Pannon Radio's "Standard", the full text of an already-published article of the Vice-president of the Hungarian Justice and Life Party (HJLP) and Member of Parliament representing HJLP was read. Originally the article was published in a HJLP party paper. In connection with the article mentioned above, a criminal investigation has already been launched by the Central Criminal Prosecution Investigation Office on suspicion of incitement against a section of society.

According to the NRTC, reading the article on "Standard" was liable to incite hatred against minorities. However, the majority of NRTC's members voted not to file a petition for a criminal investigation against Pannon Radio due to the broadcast of the aforementioned article.

At the same time, the NRTC postponed the examination of a complex analysis of Pannon Radio's programs submitted to the NRTC prior to its session of 26 October 2001. According to this analysis, Pannon radio continuously features in a negative way Jewish, Roma and homosexual minorities by using humiliating and vulgar expressions. As a result, the analysis recommends that the NRTC should impose a fine of HUF 2,3 Million (about EUR 9,381) on Pannon Radio.

According to Article 112 paragraph 4 lit. c) of the Act I of 1996 on Radio and Television ("Media Act"), the NRTC may impose a fine twice or file a written notice to the broadcaster concerned concerning the violation of the Media Act. After the second written notice, the NRTC has to withdraw the broadcaster's license.

Written notice of the National Radio and Television Commission (NRTC), 26 October 2001

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