

# The Radio Television Regulation and its safeguards against xenophobic and anti-migrant coverage



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# Presentation's Overview

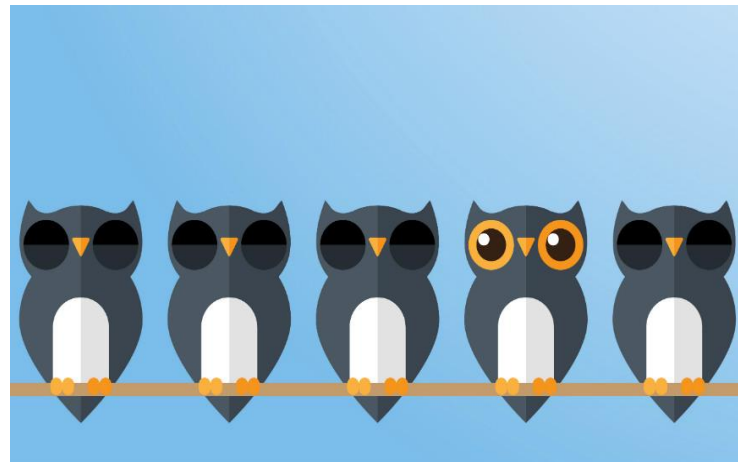
Cyprus Radio Television Authority – its mission

Regulatory provisions relevant to the topic

Case study

# Cyprus Radio Television Authority

- Independent Regulatory Authority
- Seeking to protect fundamental human rights and to safeguard democratic ideals



# Regulatory provisions

- *The Radio and Television Broadcasters Law of 7(I)/1998* (as amended)
  - **Article 30** – Media service providers that fall within the jurisdiction of the Republic shall be prohibited from broadcasting programmes which contain any incitement to hatred on grounds of race, sex, religion or nationality.
  - **Article 26(1)(f)** The broadcasts of each licensed television or radio broadcaster shall be governed by the principles of respect to the ideals of democracy and human rights;



# Regulatory provisions

- *The Radio and Television Stations Regulations of 2000 (Administrative Acts 10/2000)*
  - **Regulation 25(3)(a)** – 25. The following rules concern the language which shall be used in broadcasts: 3. There shall be forbidden (a) To use the language in a manner which may offend against the sensitivities of religious, racial, political or other social groups,



# Regulatory provisions

- *Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Law, Chapter 300A* (as amended)
  - **18B.** The Corporation shall be prohibited from broadcasting programs that contain incitement to hatred on grounds of race, gender, religion or nationality.



# An example – Audiovisual material examined by Cyprus Radio Television Authority

- Tet-a-Tet, broadcast by Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation
- Two cases examined by CRTA

## Arguments by Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation

- Singer's statements do not incite to hatred
- Freedom of expression and free movement of all ideas at the centre of CyBC
- CyBC is expected to perform significant social role focused on dissemination of all opinions and in promotion of pluralism

# CRTA approach

- Rejected all arguments expressed by CyBC
- The argumentation of CRTA
  - Surprised by the arguments and statements expressed by the Corporation
  - Considers that expressions like “*these people (ie immigrants) rape our home country; ... they put forward a process of islamification of Greece*” incites to hatred
  - Acknowledges the fundamental right of freedom of expression yet emphasises the principle of respecting the audience and the responsibility of CyBC to prevent the broadcasts that incite to hatred
  - Balances the interests at stake: singer’s free speech right VS audience’s right not to perceive messages that promote hatred or intolerance
  - Singer’s expressions target entire social, religious, racial groups and encourage or create favorable conditions for actual or potential violence against these groups



# CRTA decisions

## ➤ Two Decisions

– 72/2016(68) – 21.000euro financial penalty

○ <http://www.crtac.org.cy/crta-decisions/app/web/upload/d5d041c9b5256db7777fe379a2a1f0fe.pdf>

– 80/2026(69) – 5.000euro financial penalty

○ <http://www.crtac.org.cy/crta-decisions/app/web/upload/ad713528473cfc3d29ffde50dd9fe916.pdf>



*Cultivate  
respect and  
tolerance*

Thank you

Cyprus Radio Television Authority *is looking forward to serving  
the public* and its interests

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