

Broadcasting Authority
Malta



ANNUAL REPORT 1991

30
1961-1991

Annual Report 1991

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

MALTA



*Published in 1992 by the
Broadcasting Authority
National Road, Blata l-Bajda,
Malta.
Telephone: 247908, 221282, 223289
Fax: 240855*

*Typeset and printed by Dormax Press Ltd.
Designed by Victor Fenech*

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY



L-AWTORITA' TAX-XANDIR

MALTA

The Hon. Dr. E. Fenech Adami, B.A.,LL.D.,M.P.
Prime Minister
Auberge de Castille
Valletta.

Ref.67/62/3
14 April, 1992

Dear Prime Minister,

In accordance with section 30 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1991, we have pleasure in forwarding the Broadcasting Authority's Annual Report for 1991.

Yours sincerely,



Laurence Mizzi
Chairman



Antoine Ellul
Chief Executive

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTORY	9
New Legislation	9
Private Broadcasting	11
Radio Revival	12
The Next Decade	12
PROFILE OF THE YEAR	13
The Broadcasting Act	13
Cable Television	15
Radio Licensing - by Government	16
Radio Licensing - by the Authority	17
30 Years	20
THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY	23
Licensing Obligations	24
Monitoring Obligations	24
Organisational Improvements	25
Recruitment of Staff	26
Finance	27
Master Antenna System	28
Public Service Advertising and Promotion	29
POLITICS IN BROADCASTING	31
Party Political Broadcasts	31
Ministerial Broadcasts	33
Anniversary Messages	33
THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICES	37
From Contractor to Licensee	38
The News Services	40
Complaints	42
AUDIENCE RESEARCH	46
Equipped to View and Listen	46
Maltese vs Italian TV	47
The News	47
Political Content	47
Television Programmes	48
Radio Programmes	48
New Radio Services	49

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS	51
Vatican Conference	51
European Television and Film Forum	51
Commonwealth Song Competition	52
Overseas Courses	52
PICTORIAL REVIEW	55
APPENDICES	67
I Letter from the Authority to the Prime Minister concerning aspects of Broadcasting Bill	68
II Guidelines for Applicants for a VHF/FM Nationwide Sound Broadcasting Radio Service	71
III Community Radio Service - Information for Applicants	84
IV Revenue and Expenditure Estimates for 1992	97
V Procedure for Party Political Broadcasts	103
VI Radio and Television Licence Fees for 1991	116



Introductory

The year covered by this report has surely been the most significant period of change and challenge since 1961 when, with the setting up of the Authority, a statutory form of regulation of the broadcasting media was introduced in Malta for the first time. The year has also been one of intense activity.

New Legislation

The main event of the year in so far as broadcasting is concerned was undoubtedly the replacement by new legislation of the Broadcasting Ordinance which had regulated the Broadcasting sector for the last 30 years.

Government's proposals for a new enabling framework for the expansion of radio and television services in Malta as well as Government's philosophy behind the concept of pluralism in broadcasting had been set out in the White Paper issued in September 1990. The Authority had studied the proposals in depth and had submitted what was probably the most significant and comprehensive response.

The new Broadcasting Bill was published on 8 March 1991 and after 22 parliamentary sessions was enacted and brought into effect on 1 June 1991. Much of the debate on the Bill centered around the concept of impartiality and the manner in which this was to be applied. Although the requirement to be duly impartial is couched in mandatory terms, a proviso to the relevant section ¹ of the law allows considerable flexibility for the Authority to determine its meaning in everyday practice in the absence of guidance from the courts.

Differences in interpretation arose when this section of the new law was compared with Constitutional provisions ² on broadcasting which also dealt with impartiality but in a more uncompromising fashion. In fact, whilst the Constitution seems to demand the observance of impartiality "*in such sound and television broadcasting services as may be provided in Malta*", the new Act allows the regulatory body to consider due impartiality over "*the general output of programmes provided by the various broadcasting licensees and contractors, together as a whole*".

1. Section 13 of the Broadcasting Act, 1991

2. Section 119(1) of the Constitution of Malta

The Authority's stand on this issue and its interpretation of its Constitutional obligations are further referred to and explained in subsequent chapters of this report.

The Broadcasting Act with its 44 sections and 4 schedules is much longer and more complicated than the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961 (17 sections and 4 schedules) for two main reasons:

- (a) It is a new start rather than an evolution of the previously existing system.
- (b) The Act is designed to provide a framework for rapidly developing technologies (satellite and cable television) which will have to operate in the years to come in a pluralistic environment. Because Government has decided, sensibly, to allow for change, future development in broadcasting is mapped out in a National Broadcasting Plan which is included in one of the schedules to this legislation.

The Act provides for the regulation of all radio and television services in Malta as well as for the powers, duties and financial resources of the Authority including the power to issue licences for all broadcasting media. The following table shows the main sub-divisions of the Broadcasting Act.

Structure of Broadcasting Act, 1991	
<u>Provisions</u>	<u>Clauses</u>
Functions and composition of the Broadcasting Authority.	3 to 9
Licensing and contractual conditions applicable to the broadcasting services.	10 to 16
Relations between the Minister responsible for Wireless Telegraphy and the Authority.	17 to 18
General regulation of radio and television services through the enforcement of programme codes and schedules.	19 to 23
Financial and other provisions relating to the Authority.	24 to 32
Miscellaneous matters (advisory committees, handling of complaints, power to make regulations, powers of the President and the Prime Minister, offences and penalties, exemptions, amendments to other Acts).	33 to 44

Private Broadcasting

The National Broadcasting Plan provides for an end to the State's monopoly of broadcasting in Malta. As a natural consequence of this policy decision, the Government expressed its intention to make available to the Authority two mono frequencies and eight stereo frequencies for radio services of a nationwide nature. Two of these frequencies were to be retained for the State's public broadcasting services, the rest were to be assigned to the Authority for eventual allocation to private commercial broadcasters.

This decision was welcomed by the Authority as proper and inevitable. Xandir Malta, the division which provided broadcasting services for the parastatal telecommunications corporation (Telemalta) had for a long time operated national services on two radio frequencies, one MW and one FM. Other FM frequencies assigned to Malta were lying idle.

However, before the Authority could exercise any of its newly acquired powers, the Government - in an unexpected development - offered and subsequently issued radio licences to the Nationalist Party, the Malta Labour Party and the Catholic Church. The licences were issued in terms of the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance and are valid for a period expiring on 31 December 1992.

The difficulties that a regulatory body like the Authority can experience when faced with strong pressures were evident whenever control over a programme company was vested in political interests. With first hand knowledge of such situations, the Authority had warned in its response to the White Paper that the possibility of, amongst other things, political ownership and control of broadcasting stations was of considerable significance and its implications should be carefully considered.

These misgivings were partly realised during the period under review when one of the temporary radio licensees, Radio Super One operated directly by the Malta Labour Party, failed to abide by certain provisions of the law and the terms of its temporary licence.³

After a public call for applications, the Authority acting under the provisions of Section 10 of the Broadcasting Act issued 8-year nationwide radio licences to three private commercial operators who were due to commence transmissions by the first half of 1992.

3. Unauthorised use of broadcasting frequency; transmission from site not in accordance with legal requirements; failure to pay licence fee and failure to comply with Broadcasting Authority's requests for information.

Radio Revival

Radio, once a form of group listening that filled coffee bars and village squares, has emerged as a very strong medium for private and individual uses. The latest available research figures show that all households have at least one radio set and a considerable number have more than one radio set. Based on population figures, the statistics show that 31.2% of the total Maltese population own a radio.

Radio has several advantages over television. It is in every way more economical both for the listener in the cost of his receiving set and for the broadcaster in the cost of programme production. Radio is more flexible, can react faster and has an almost unlimited number of hours at its disposal. It is also recognised that the radio audience is constantly shifting. A good programme may be heard by chance and it may come at a time when an interested listener was unable to tune into it. If a programme is worthwhile he should have another chance. Such a policy of better programmes and perhaps less music would do much to ensure that the revival of radio in Malta meets with success.

The Next Decade

During the course of the year under review, the Authority celebrated the 30th Anniversary of its foundation. It was an occasion to look back upon the achievements and the difficulties of former years. However, it was also a time to look forward to the challenging opportunities that lie ahead for Maltese broadcasters in the next decade.

Satellites, fibre optics, cable television and other technological advances may bring about major changes in the structure of local broadcasting but for the Authority the time will be one of development and expansion.

In television, the establishment of the cable network and the setting up of the Community Channel will add a distinctive service, increasing opportunities for a wide range of programme providers and a wide choice for the viewing audience. In radio, the licensing of private nationwide and community stations will continue, providing the public with alternative services. Public broadcasting services in Malta have behind them nearly thirty years of experience during which there were times when they showed themselves capable of providing high quality services which met with popular approval. The Authority is committed to ensure that both public and private broadcasting sectors are in the best possible shape to make good use of the pluralistic broadcasting environment to the advantage of Maltese audiences.



Profile of the Year

Four main events took place during the course of 1991 which as previously noted focused attention on the Authority's past performance and on its future role in broadcasting. These events were: the coming into force of the Broadcasting Act; the issue of a licence for a Cable Television System; the call for applications for licences to operate nationwide and community radio services and the celebrations marking the 30th Anniversary of the Authority's foundation. Each event is reviewed in turn.

The Broadcasting Act

May 1991 saw the final passage through Parliament of the Broadcasting Act. This ushered in several major changes and even included some important amendments to clauses which had been hotly debated when the law was still in Bill form. The main amendment concerned the concept of impartiality.

As drafted, the Maltese version of section 13 of the Bill made it obligatory upon the Authority to consider impartiality after taking into account the general output of programmes provided by all the stations. The Authority contended that this may be in conflict with section 119(1) of the Constitution which also bound the Authority to ensure the observance of impartiality. However, this Constitutional requirement had always been interpreted to mean that a station should not promote particular views sponsored by individual sections of the community but that, in matters of controversy, every view likely to infringe on public opinion should be reflected, over a reasonable period of time, in each station's programmes with the responsibility for judging the validity of such opinions to be left to the public itself.

The Authority whilst noting with satisfaction that the Bill incorporated most of its recommendations which had been made earlier, expressed misgivings that certain areas still gave cause for concern. The Authority's reaction to the Bill included particular reference to the question of impartiality. This reaction was communicated to Government on 27 March, 1991, and, on 10 April, this letter was laid on the Table of the House of Representatives by Dr Michael Frendo the Parliamentary Secretary who was piloting the Bill. A copy of this letter is included at Appendix I to this report. This section was subsequently amended by Government to allow the Authority discretion in its interpretation.

The enactment of the Broadcasting Act had the following other immediate and long term effects:

- * The establishment of pluralism in Maltese broadcasting.
- * Television: A terrestrial service will continue to be provided by a state owned company - Public Broadcasting Services Ltd;¹

A Community Channel on Cable Television (for which a licence was issued by Government) will be operated by the Broadcasting Authority.

An Educational Channel on Cable television will be operated in conjunction with the Department of Education.

Private channels within the Cable system will be available for allocation by the Authority.

- * Radio: Public Broadcasting Services Ltd will continue to provide nationwide services on MW and FM.

The Authority will allocate nine VHF/FM frequencies for nationwide services to cover a variety of tastes and interests.

The Authority will also license Community radio services which will have a service radius of 2.5 kilometres.

- * Radio and television services will be regulated by the Broadcasting Authority with regard to ownership and programme content.
- * Controlled sponsorship of programmes is to be allowed.
- * On television, limits have been imposed on the number of commercials in a given broadcast hour, on the number of commercial breaks in feature films and films made for television and on advertising in children's programmes.
- * Whilst the advertising of cigarettes and tobacco products is banned on both radio and television, the advertising of medical products and alcoholic beverages is strictly controlled.

1. This company was actually set up on 27 September 1991.

All in all, the new economic and legal restrictions suggest that Maltese broadcasting is now moving in the general direction adopted by other European countries. The effect of pluralism both on the audience and on the companies providing the service will take some time to assess. The next important development stage will come in 1995 when Government will decide whether to make frequencies available to private terrestrial television operators or continue to rely on the cable system itself.²

Cable Television

On 3 June 1991, the Government signed an agreement with Melita Cable Television Ltd granting the company a 15-year franchise to install and operate a cable television system for the Maltese Islands. The company is owned jointly by Maltese and American interests.

The transmission of programmes by cable is not new to Malta. In fact, up to 1975, the Rediffusion Group used to provide a wired sound network on which both locally originated and BBC services were relayed to subscribers. However, Melita Cable Television Ltd will not originate programmes. The company will provide a service comprising a large number of channels which they will receive via terrestrial and satellite stations.

Construction of the system began in the Autumn of 1991 when a Headend site was located by the company at Madliena. This will house the equipment and 3 to 7 metre dishes for satellite channels and antennae for off air channels. Subscribers to the Cable Television Service are expected to start being recruited by mid-1992 and the whole cable system should bring Malta's estimated 100,000 households within its reach by mid-1994.

The Cable Operator is bound by licence conditions to provide, free of charge, to the Broadcasting Authority, studio facilities, equipment and training for the Community Channel. This will include a 100-square metre studio with appropriate control room and supporting broadcasting facilities.

Every effort was made by the Authority to help the Cable Operator to locate a suitable site for the Community Channel studio but, by the end of the year under review, its efforts had not been successful.

2. Vide paragraph 3 of National Broadcasting Plan.

The Authority's Role in Cable Television

1. Operate a public access Community Channel where members of the public or voluntary groups can make use of the equipment to promote their aims. Naturally, they would be required to undergo training in the use of the equipment.
2. Produce and transmit specialised programmes, i.e. Parliamentary debates, Party Political programmes and other serious and informative programmes.
3. Oversee cable programmes (not those retransmitted) to make sure that the legal and licence obligations are kept.
4. Licence one additional cable channel, to be made available by the Cable operator free of charge to the Authority, for every fifth channel licensed to commercial users.

Radio Licensing - by Government

Reference has already been made in the opening chapter of this report to the three temporary radio licences issued by the Government in April 1991. Two of these services were already operative by the end of the year under review thus more than doubling the number of daily transmission hours. These, in a span of 50 years, had never exceeded 34, but in less than five months the available total transmission time on three FM and one MW stations stood at 82 hours daily.

The Labour Party station - Radio Super One - was first on the air. It began regular transmissions in mid-August. Although the party claimed that it had never applied for nor had it accepted the offer of a licence, this station transmits news, news analysis, discussion programmes and chat shows within an overall music background for 24 hours a day.

Radio 101 is managed by a company which is wholly owned by the Nationalist Party. This station which was inaugurated in September 1991 was, by the end of the period under review, transmitting programmes as follows:

	Weekly %
News & Current Affairs	5.52
Discussion Programmes	5.95
Information Slots	2.23
Sports	3.57
Classical Music	1.19
Pop Music	81.54
Total weekly	100 %

The third station which had been given a temporary radio licence by Government had not commenced transmission by the end of 1991.³

Although these stations were licensed by Government under the terms of the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance, the Broadcasting Authority had the responsibility to supervise and control their programme content. No difficulties were encountered in so far as Station 101 was concerned. However, the same could not be said for Radio Super One which, even at this early stage, ignored the Authority's requests for its programme schedule and for the regular provision of news scripts which the Authority required on a weekly basis for monitoring and statistical purposes.

Radio Licensing – by the Authority

Under the terms of the Broadcasting Act, 1991 the Authority on 3 June 1991 issued a call for applications for licences to operate nationwide radio stations on the VHF/FM waveband. Licences were offered for a period of eight years and the Authority published a set of guidelines (reproduced at Appendix II) to help applicants in providing the information required.

By the 24 June 1991, the closing date, the Authority had received 5 applications for the 6 licences which were on offer.

These applications were submitted by:

3. RTK - the Church station was inaugurated on 14 March 1992.

1. **Island Sound**
Promoters: Messrs. Frank Salt and Jon Rosser
2. **Radio K (+ frequency allocated)**
Promoters: Messrs. Kevin and Ian De Cesare
3. **Radju MAS**
Promoters: Moviment Azzjoni Socjali
4. **Radio One Live**
Promoters: Messrs Joseph and Godfrey Grima
5. **Smash Radio**
Promoter: Mr Joe Baldacchino

Specific criteria for the assessment of applications is laid down in section 11(2) of the Broadcasting Act. This includes:

- (i) economic potential and viability
- (ii) quality of scheduled programming, and
- (iii) technological and broadcasting plans and projects.

The consideration of applications covered detailed programme proposals, technical aspects, business plans and ownership.

The Authority was assisted by its staff and also had access to professional legal, financial and technical advice. Each applicant's proposals were considered separately during a series of meetings which were held by the Authority with each applicant.

The Authority noted with interest that most applicants were confident in generating sufficient revenue through advertising to help them achieve break-even point after the first year of operation. If projections are borne out by actual performance, the radio advertising sector is bound to grow substantially within three years from the commissioning of these stations. It still remains to be seen how much of this growth will be in real terms and how much will be due to mere shifting from one advertising medium to another.

On 7 November, 1991 the Authority announced the award of licences to three applicants who will provide nationwide sound broadcasting services. Another two applications were still being considered by the end of the period under review.

The new radio licensees have undertaken to provide the following content and style of programming:

Island Sound The Station will adopt a broad-based programming format intended to appeal to the widest possible audience of Maltese citizens and tourists.

Programmes will be in English, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; comprising music, foreign news, current affairs, comedy, sport and local information.

Radio One Live The hallmark of Radio One Live is that all programmes broadcast on the station will come to the listener live from source - direct or recorded live. The station's objective is to present a balance between instant information and up to the minute entertainment. This programming format will include debates, chat shows and satellite hook-ups.

Much of the programming will be dictated by events but one may expect the service to carry live broadcasts of most types of local activities.

The service will also include international and local news.

Bay Radio A music-led station dedicated to the teen to 50 age group. The Licensee aims to achieve a high standard of performance and production. Speech content will be informed and authoritative with brief items of news featured half-hourly in English and Maltese alternately. Cultural items, phone-ins and charity sponsorships will feature widely both in Maltese and English.

Towards the end of the year under review, the Authority also announced the launch of a new radio service for Malta - Community Radio.

The new stations will have a service radius of 2.5 kilometres and are intended to provide programming which serves either geographically recognisable communities or communities of interest. This can mean the setting up of stations to serve towns and villages or it can mean serving those united by a common interest such as specialist music or a common need for information.

In the words of the National Broadcasting Plan which is incorporated in the Broadcasting Act 1991, the intention in setting up these stations is that such services "*will be subject to the minimum of regulation consistent with the public interest; will be permitted to adopt their own editorial point of view;*

will be allowed to carry sponsored programmes; and will own their own transmitters and thus broadcast themselves."

The Authority is offering a four-year licence to community inspired operators who would like a chance to broadcast in a commercial environment. Prospective applicants must be either individual Maltese citizens or companies which are wholly Maltese owned.

Community Radio Services are expected to operate for not less than 20 hours per week and to draw their programming from local rather than national sources.

A handbook with all relevant information about these radio services was issued by the Authority. A selection from this handbook is reproduced at Appendix III to the report.

30 Years

September 29, 1991 marked the 30th Anniversary of the foundation of the Broadcasting Authority.

The Authority commemorated the anniversary by a number of activities ranging from the hosting by the Authority of an international conference in Malta to the holding of public lectures on broadcasting topics; the transmission of a specially prepared series of cultural programmes and the organisation of a number of social events attended by prominent personalities and broadcasting personnel and their families.

At the invitation of the Authority, the European Broadcasting Union's Legal Committee made arrangements for its Working Party on Copyright to meet in Malta on 19-20 September. The Group meets twice a year to discuss and bring to the attention of the EBU Legal Committee copyright questions involving member countries. The Malta conference covered such matters as: the draft EC Directive on satellite and cable; a model clause for granting of exclusive satellite broadcasting rights in cinematographic films; and the draft European Convention relating to questions on copyright law and neighbouring rights.

Delegates who are all experts in this specialised legal field came from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Delegates were accompanied by permanent EBU officials. Maltese legal delegates participated during the conference which helped to promote Malta's continuing interest in European broadcasting affairs.

During its thirty years of existence the Authority had on several occasions taken measures to extend the dialogue with the public it serves. One of these measures which proved effective was audience participation at public lectures on matters relating to broadcasting. The anniversary activities included a visit to Malta on 2-5 October by Professor George Wedell, the Director of the European Institute for the Media and Professor of Communications Policy at the University of Manchester. In this role, he had developed the research on public policy in broadcasting which laid the foundations for the European Institute.

During Professor Wedell's visit which was organised by the Authority, several public lectures and a seminar were held. These well attended activities dealt with the following subjects:

- "Pluralism in Broadcasting:
The European Experience"
- "Television: Quality in a Time of Change"
- "The Civil Service as a source of Information"

Tracing the development of broadcasting in various European countries, Professor Wedell said that until the move towards deregulation started, almost all broadcasting media in Europe were centrally owned. The advent of new technology - satellite and cable television and video players - which could only be controlled in varying degrees forced the pace in the process of deregulation in broadcasting. Professor Wedell emphasised the Authority's responsibilities in regulating the local media in the best interests of the public. He strongly believed in the role of the public broadcaster (those responsible for the management of public broadcasting services) to give the lead in all respects.

For the occasion of its 30th Anniversary, the Broadcasting Authority produced a 13-part series of television programmes under the general title of "Il-Kwadru Tieghi" (My Favourite Painting).

The scope of this series which was shown mainly during the October - December quarter of 1991 was to instil a basic form of art appreciation amongst the general public and thus contribute towards more awareness of local culture. This it was hoped to achieve through a series of interviews with well known personalities drawn from various sectors of society who were asked to talk about their favourite painting. No limitation was made on choice except that the painting must be located in Malta or Gozo.

The series was quite successful as shown by several appreciative approaches made to the Authority. It is hoped that viewers, after having

watched the programmes, would be encouraged to see some of these paintings for themselves by visiting the museums and churches where most of the paintings are to be found.



The Broadcasting Authority

During the whole period under review, the Authority was composed as follows:

Chairman

Mr Laurence Mizzi, S. Th. Dip.

Members

Mr Joseph J. Camilleri, B.A., M.A., A.I.E. (Lond.)

Dr Austin Sammut, B.A. (Hons.), LL.D.

Mr Joseph Sammut

Prof. Kenneth Wain, B.A. (Hons.)(Lond.), M.A.,

Dip. Ed. (Lond.), Ph. D. (Lond.)

The Authority meets, on average, once weekly when it considers policy and other matters brought to its attention. Items on the Authority's Agenda are normally supported by memoranda drawn up by the Chief Executive. Authority sessions usually last from five to six hours, at times much longer.

The Authority's consultations with outside opinion were of three distinct kinds. First, there were meetings with bodies or persons representing broadcasting organizations. These included the Telemalta Corporation, Xandir Malta, the Institute of Broadcasters, Island Sound Radio, Bay Radio and Radio One Live - the latter three in the process of formation. Also included in this series of meetings were the Social Action Movement and Smash Recordings Ltd. Secondly, there were the political parties, i.e. the Nationalist Party, the Malta Labour Party and Alternattiva Demokratika. Allied to these meetings were others held with the Electoral Commission, the Chief Inspector of Wireless Telegraphy and Melita Cable Television.

The Authority has come a long way since it was set up on 29 September 1961. It is now in a particularly exciting and delicate stage of its development when it must adapt to its new functions and obligations as set out in the Broadcasting Act which, as from 1 June 1991, replaced the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961.

The Authority's main functions under the new legislation were explained in last year's annual review; they were applied for the first time during the course of 1991.

The first radio licences to be issued in terms of the newly enacted Act were granted by the Authority in November 1991. The process leading to this event occupied the Authority's time during most of the latter half of the year.

Licensing Obligations

In deciding who of the applicants were to be granted a licence to operate a nationwide radio service the Authority looked into such matters as:

- (i) company status in terms of the Commercial Partnerships Act to determine whether the applicant company was mainly controlled by Maltese citizens as required by section 10(4) of the Act.
- (ii) ownership and control to establish, amongst other things, that no undue control of more than one broadcasting service is vested in any person or group in accordance with the requirements of section 10(5);
- (iii) character, age and nationality of directors on the board of applicant companies in order to conform with the objectives of the Press Act as required by section 10(6) of the Broadcasting Act;
- (iv) the adequacy of the expertise and experience and of the financial resources of applicant;
- (v) the quality, range and type of the proposed programme service including news services; and
- (vi) the technical quality of the proposed service.

Through this evaluation and sifting process, the Authority granted the three radio licences referred to in earlier chapters of this report.

Monitoring Obligations

None of the new Authority licensees had commenced transmission by the end of the period under review.¹ When this happens, the Authority will apply the second part of its obligations: monitoring the activities of the franchised stations along with those of the already existing programme companies. In particular, it is for the Authority to ensure

1. Island Sound Radio and Bay Radio commenced transmissions on 6 March, 1992 and 10 March, 1992 respectively.

- (i) that section 119 of the Constitution (especially due impartiality in matters of public controversy) is observed;
- (ii) that news is presented with accuracy, and current affairs programmes are given impartial treatment;
- (iii) that nothing is included in the programmes which offends against religious sentiment, good taste or decency, or is likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling;
- (iv) that, in the case of community radio services, the views and expressions of the licensee on matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy do not predominate.

The Authority is required to draw up, and revise from time to time, a code of practice as to certain matters specified in the Act (vide section 20) as well as to apply the code of practice laid down in the Third Schedule to the Act in relation to advertising. Such codes shall be binding on broadcasting licensees.

Organisational Improvements

In the midst of the changes introduced by the new Broadcasting Act, it would be unjust to overlook certain improvements which will secure a greater measure of independence for the Authority. One such notable improvement is in the method of appointing the Authority's Chief Executive.

This official is the permanent executive head who advises the Authority in the formation of its policies and implements the Authority's decisions. Under the law, the Authority delegates to him the necessary powers and duties to enable him to carry out the day to day business of the Authority including the administrative control of its staff.

Under the provisions of the previous broadcasting legislation, the Authority could appoint its own staff except for the Chief Executive who, since 1966, could be, and subsequently was, appointed by the Prime Minister. This was an inherent weakness in the old broadcasting legislation which at times had serious and far reaching implications. There were periods in the Authority's history when the post was left vacant for several consecutive years with unfortunate but predictable consequences.

The position has now been adjusted and, in accordance with the requirements of section 5(1) of the Broadcasting Act 1991, the Authority is responsible for ascertaining that "*there shall be a Chief Executive of the Authority*" thus ensuring continuity and that this official is "*appointed following a public call for applicants by the Authority ...*" A further provision in the law ensures that the post cannot be held by a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary, a member of, or a candidate for election to, the House of Representatives, a member of a local government authority or a public officer.

The Authority's present Chief Executive, Mr Antoine Ellul, had been appointed to the post by the Prime Minister in July 1987. Mr Ellul was seconded by Government to the Broadcasting Authority where he had previously served as its directly recruited Secretary for twenty years. Soon after the coming into force of the Act, the Authority confirmed Mr Ellul's appointment as its Chief Executive.

The Authority itself is appointed by the President of Malta in terms of section 118 of the Constitution. However, the Broadcasting Act provides for such procedural matters as quorum requirements and conduct of meetings during the Chairman's absence. Section 8 of the Act which deals with proceedings of meetings of the Authority incorporates other improvements upon the previous legislation.

Former unrealistic quorum requirements which in previous years used to obstruct the smooth functioning of the Authority were done away with and the quorum of the Authority now consists of half its members. This arrangement has already worked better than the previous practice of enforcing four out of the five-member Board, including the Chairman, to be present during meetings to ensure validity.

The facility now available to Board members to appoint "*one of their number to preside over the meeting*" in the absence of the Chairman is another measure of improvement. In former years, the presence of the Chairman was a **sine qua non** and this tended to hamper both the Authority and the Chairman himself during his rare but unavoidable periods of absence.

Recruitment of Staff

In the area of staff salaries, although improvements have been made, the position is still rather disappointing. Recent developments clearly indicate that the Authority needs to expand in order to cope with its increased responsibilities. Vigorous recruitment policies and a systematic drive to acquire new, possibly academically qualified, personnel are useless unless accompanied by salary levels more in tune with today's market values.

The public broadcasting sector including service with the Authority should provide rewarding and attractive career opportunities for qualified young people but the low response obtained from two calls for applications provide little evidence that it is so regarded. Pending recruitment plans for programming, technical, accountancy and research personnel may not fare any better because the Authority is unable to offer competitive salaries.

The Authority recommends a revision of clause 9 in the Act which limits the Authority's freedom of action and pegs salary levels to 'comparable' ones within the Civil Service.

Finance

The financial provisions in the new Broadcasting Act are a great improvement on the previous arrangements which for many years had been responsible for the Authority's totally inadequate financing and had threatened to undermine the independence of the Authority.

Section 24 of the Broadcasting Act establishes the method for financing the Authority whose revenue shall consist of -

- (a) (i) *such sums as Parliament shall each year determine to be payable to the Authority;*
- (ii) *thirty per centum, or a percentage being not less than fifteen per centum and not more than fifty per centum which may by regulation be stipulated by the Prime Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance, of the revenue accruing to the Government from wireless and television licences after deducting a per centum in respect of expenditure reasonably incurred for the collection thereof;*
- (iii) *the revenue accruing to the Authority from broadcasting licences, as provided in subsection (1) of section 14 of this Act; and*
- (iv) *such sums as may from time to time be payable to the Authority by a broadcasting contractor or cable or other broadcasting operator as provided in subsection (2) of section 14 and subsection (3) of section 3 of this Act;*
- (b) *The sum to be paid to the Authority in terms of paragraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not be less than two hundred and fifty thousand **liri** per year, and any sum payable to the Authority in virtue of the said paragraphs shall be a charge upon the Consolidated Fund.*

This new basis for financing the Authority coupled with the provision which for the first time allows for the setting up of a reserve fund is vital to the future of this sector of broadcasting. The Authority attaches the utmost importance to an adequate and guaranteed income and to other measures which make forward planning possible. These measures are particularly necessary at this stage of the Authority's development when its responsibilities both in radio and television have increased appreciably and its activities will continue to spread when present expansion plans are fully realised.

The Authority's anticipated operating and capital requirements for 1992 were submitted to Government and were laid on the Table of the House of Representatives in terms of section 27 of the Broadcasting Act. The revenue and expenditure estimates are reproduced at Appendix IV.

Master Antenna System

One of the main purposes laid down in the Broadcasting Act, for which provision is to be made by the Authority in broadcasting licences and contracts, is that:

*"Transmitters of the VHF/FM Nationwide Sound Broadcasting Radio Service shall be co-sited with the existing television service at Gharghur and shall use a master antenna system."*¹

This condition emerged from Government's environmental policy which was meant to avoid the spread of antenna masts or towers throughout the Maltese Islands and to ensure, as far as technically possible, the best coverage from a single location.

In April 1991, a limited liability company - Master Antenna Ltd - was set up by Government in which the Broadcasting Authority had a nominal shareholding. The main objective of the company was to operate and manage the transmission of nationwide radio signals on a commercial basis from the selected site at Gharghur. The Government's and the Authority's representatives on the company's board of directors were to hold the posts of chairman and managing director respectively. The Authority nominated its Chief Executive for the post. Shareholding in the company was made mandatory on each nationwide sound broadcasting service licence holder. This would eventually lead to the company being owned and managed by the licensees themselves.

1. Paragraph 16 of section C of the Fourth Schedule to the Broadcasting Act, 1991.

The Authority's involvement in this matter arose from its connections with the selected transmission site which, 30 years previously, had been bought outright from Government to be used for broadcasting purposes.

In fact the land and facilities at the Gharghur site are used by the Telemalta Corporation for radio and television transmissions as well as for other telecommunication purposes. The whole area measuring 2,829 square metres was recently valued at Lm76,400.

A transmission tower located on the property was originally constructed by the British Forces then stationed in Malta. When the British Services left Malta in 1979, the tower was handed over to Government who, in turn, passed it over to the Authority as the owner of the land on which it was sited. The present day value of the tower is estimated at Lm50,340.

The Authority is in the process of making arrangements with the users of the land and the facilities provided on it to regularise the matter through lease agreements.

Public Service Advertising and Promotion

The Broadcasting Authority and radio and television programme companies have always recognised as one of their obligations the broadcasting of information and advice on matters of public interest or concern. A great deal is done in the course of local programming but these are not the only programme vehicles in which opportunities are taken to provide information of public service.

Throughout the course of the year under review, the Authority continued its civic education campaign on television. A large number of video clips were produced by the Authority and transmitted by Xandir Malta, willingly and without charge, each depicting a situation concerning matters of health, safety and welfare. These one-minute spots were designed to encourage viewers to pay greater attention to some specific aspect of daily life which unfortunately was creating a hazard to ourselves or to others. The campaign covered such diverse topics as drugs, smoking, traffic regulations, blood donors, electricity and water safety, A.I.D.S., litter, domestic violence, animal care, sportsmanship and many others.

A leading advertising agency, conscious of the effect which the campaign was having on public opinion, asked to produce some of the video clips for the Authority as its contribution to the community. The offer was gladly accepted.

There is still much scope for public service advertising, particularly on the new commercial radio services, because of their obvious involvement in community life and their extensive listenership by the young generation. The Authority would welcome continued expansion in this sector of public service.



Politics in Broadcasting

Politics are bound to figure prominently in broadcasting because radio and television are the most effective media of mass communication. In this field, however, a special responsibility is laid on the Authority which is bound by Constitutional provisions to fairly apportion broadcasting facilities and time between persons belonging to different political parties.

The Broadcasting Act further clarifies the Authority's role in such matters and lays down the parameters within which it is to operate. The Act also ensures the Authority has all the co-operation and facilities it requires from those providing the broadcasting services in order to carry out its mandate.

Subsections (4) and (5) of section 13 of the Act lay down that

- (4) *It shall also be the duty of the Authority to organise from time to time schemes of political broadcasts (including political spots) which fairly apportion facilities and time between the different political parties represented in Parliament; to produce properly balanced discussions or debates that afford access to persons from different interest-groups and with different points of view, and also to produce commentaries or other programmes about questions relating to current public policy, wherein persons taking part can put forward differing views and comments.*
- (5) *In order to fulfil its duty under subsection (4) of this section, the Authority shall in addition to all its other powers, have the right to order any person or all persons providing broadcasting services in Malta for reception in Malta to provide, free of charge, such recording and other facilities as may be necessary for the production of the said programmes for radio and television, as well as to transmit, free of charge, on such days and at such times as the Authority shall direct, the same programmes:*

Provided that the powers of the Authority under this subsection may only be exercised in so far as that exercise is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society.

Party Political Broadcasts

It has always been difficult for the Authority to reach some form of consensus with the political parties about the distribution of airtime for political broadcasts and the process gone through during the year under

review proved to be no exception. This was due to the widely divergent views which each party expressed during separate meetings held with the Authority. Perhaps opinions were more tenaciously held by party representatives this year since the series which came into effect on 1 November was the last before the general elections due in 1992.

After exhaustive discussions both within the Authority itself and with party representatives, the Authority implemented two schemes: one for programmes and another for 'political spots' which were being introduced for the first time in Malta. Approximately 725 minutes of airtime were made available on television with most of the programmes being repeated on radio. The allocations, made in strict proportion to the parties' then parliamentary representation, are as shown in Tables 1 and 2 below:

Table 1 - Distribution of Programmes

Programme Category	Nationalist Party	Malta Labour Party	Alternattiva Demokratika
Press Conferences	2 x 60'	1 x 60' 1 x 50'	—
Debates	2 x 60' 1 x 40'	2 x 60' 1 x 40'	—
Interviews	2 x 20'	2 x 20'	—
Party Productions	3 x 10'	2 x 10'	1 x 10'
Political Spots	17 x 1' 1 x 30"	16 x 1' 1 x 30"	1 x 30"

Table 2 - Airtime Allocation

Party	Seats in Parliament	Airtime Allocation
Nationalist	35	367.5 mins
Labour	33	346.5 mins
Alternattiva	1	10.5 mins
	69 seats	724.5 mins

The schemes were implemented for an 8-month period, from November 1991 to June 1992. This limited span was dictated by the fact that schemes of party political broadcasts come to an automatic end when Parliament is dissolved and this legislature's lifespan was due to expire on 8 July, 1992.¹

Audience research studies commissioned by the Authority during the year established that political broadcasts have a consistent audience of about 19% of all TVM viewers aged 16 years and over. About 40% follow these programmes on an occasional basis.

The detailed procedure and the various arrangements for party political broadcasts as well as a list of participants and subjects chosen by the parties are included at Appendix V of this report.

Ministerial Broadcasts

Ministerial Broadcasts fall into a different category because they make use of special time made available by the Authority to Government in view of Ministers' executive responsibilities for the care of the nation. The understanding is that Ministerial broadcasts will be impartial but the Authority retains the right to grant a reply if such broadcasts do not keep to their intended purpose which is to be explanatory of approved administrative or legislative policies or in the nature of appeals to the public to co-operate in national policies which require the public's active participation.

Nine Ministerial broadcasts totalling approximately 220 minutes (annual allocation: 240 minutes) were made during the year. These are listed on page 34:

The Authority in accordance with public undertakings given earlier during the year continued to review its policy on Ministerial broadcasts particularly as it was concerned that, over the years, the original scope of these broadcasts has tended to be overlooked. A tightening of the procedure was in the final stage of completion.

Anniversary Messages

It had become the increasing custom for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries to deliver messages on television to commemorate dates of international significance. Unfortunately, at times, these broadcasts tended to be rather lengthy. The slotting of such broadcasts, on occasion requested

1. In fact, Parliament was dissolved on 20 January, 1992 when the party political broadcasts scheme ceased.

Ministerial Broadcasts
1991

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1. May 17	Parliamentary Secretary for Transport & Tele-communications	World Tele-communications Day	27'40"
2. June 24	Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Culture & Consumer Protection	Broadcasting Act	13'38"
3. July 1	Minister of Social Policy	Reciprocal Social Services Agreement with Australia	37'00"
4. October 1	Parliamentary Secretary for Transport & Tele-communications	Tele-communications	41'49"
5. October 7	Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Culture & Consumer Protection	White Paper on Consumer Protection	16'16"
6. November 26	Parliamentary Secretary for Maritime Affairs	Port facilities	12'31"
7. November 28	Minister for Social Policy	Equal Partners in Marriage (Updating the Family Law)	44'00"
8. December 6	Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism	Tourism in general	8'27"
9. December 30	Parliamentary Secretary for Water and Energy	Water production & electricity generation position	19'06"

at short notice, quite often created difficulties since it had become the practice to transmit these 'messages' at peak viewing time. More seriously, there were also occasions when politically delicate issues were included in anniversary broadcasts originally merely intended to create public awareness of the event concerned.

Having considered the matter from various aspects, the Authority informed Government in October 1991 that it was directing the public broadcasting services not to transmit such broadcasts during peak viewing time which was considered to last from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. each evening. This directive took effect from 1 November 1991.

The following Anniversary Messages were broadcast during the year:

<u>Anniversary Messages</u> <u>1991</u>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1. March 8	The Minister for Social Policy	Women's Day	12'00"
2. April 22	The Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment	World's Day	5'22"
3. May 17	The Parliamentary Secretary for Transport & Tele-communications	World Tele-communications Day	27'00"
4. May 26	The Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly	Day for the Elderly	13'30"
5. June 5	The Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment	Environment Day	6'50"
6. June 26	The Minister for Social Policy	World Anti-Drugs Day	16'00"

7.	July 15	The Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly	World Population Day	21'00"
8.	September 26	The Parliamentary Secretary for Maritime Affairs	World Day for Maritime Affairs	7'30"
9.	September 30	The Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly	World Day for the Elderly	15'22"
10.	October 9	The Parliamentary Secretary for Transport & Tele-communications	Universal Postal Union	8'00"
11.	October 16	The Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries	World Food Day	7'55"



The Public Broadcasting Services

According to the National Broadcasting Plan which is incorporated in the Broadcasting Act, Malta's public broadcasting media will include (apart from the cable system's community and educational channels) Public Broadcasting Services Ltd with its television channel and two radio services.

Public Broadcasting Services Ltd was set up on 27 September 1991 and on the same day it was officially designated by Government as the company which will provide public broadcasting services in terms of section 10(5) of the Broadcasting Act.

Amongst several other matters, the two main objects of the company are:

- a) *to fulfil the role of providing public broadcasting services in the Maltese islands and thereby to provide high quality programming across the full range of public tastes and interests in line with journalistic principles aimed at ensuring a comprehensive and accurate information service necessary in a democratic and pluralistic society;*
- b) *to provide sound radio and television programmes of an educational and cultural nature as well as programmes aimed at meeting the entertainment needs of the general public and to provide advertising facilities;*

Public Broadcasting Services Ltd was issued with a licence by Government under the provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance thus bringing the number of broadcasting services licensed under this Ordinance to six. However, while the temporary licence issued by Government to the two main political parties and to the Church will lapse on 31 December 1992, the Public Broadcasting Services Ltd licences are valid for eight years in the case of the two radio stations - Radio Malta I and Radio Malta II - and for ten years in the case of the television station.

Thus ended the Authority's 30 year contractual relationship with Malta's broadcasting services, first provided by the Rediffusion Group of Companies and subsequently by the Telemalta Corporation with Xandir Malta as its broadcasting division.

However, the Authority and the Government had reached agreement that it would be in the public interest if Malta's public broadcasting services were to be regulated under contract with the Broadcasting Authority. In accordance with this agreement, the licence issued by the Prime Minister to Public Broadcasting Services Ltd included the following clause:

During the term of this licence and as soon as may be after its coming into force, PBS shall seek to finalise an agreement with the Broadcasting Authority whereby it shall become a contractor of the said Authority. Upon the conclusion of such an agreement in relation to any of the stations or any of the services to which this licence applies, this licence shall, with respect to the station or service in relation to which an agreement is concluded whereby PBS becomes a contractor of the Authority, be deemed to be amended by the terms of such agreement.

From Contractor to Licensee

Before Public Broadcasting Services Ltd was set up, Malta's television and radio broadcasting services were provided for and on behalf of the Authority by broadcasting contractors who, under contract with the Authority had the right and duty to provide such services. This was the position up to September 1991 when the contract expired and regulation by licence came into effect.

The Broadcasting Agreements were negotiated between the original Broadcasting Contractors and the Colonial Administration and signed on 28th September 1961. The Broadcasting Ordinance came into force and the Authority was set up on 29th September 1961. The authority inherited these Agreements in accordance with the provisions of Clause 15(1) of the Ordinance. Subject to the provisions for determination, the Agreements were to remain in force for a period of 25 years, i.e. up to 28th September 1986.

The Agreements became binding upon the Authority and the Telemalta Corporation in 1975 when the latter purchased the assets of the former Rediffusion Group of Companies. During the course of the year, both the Authority and the Telemalta Corporation gave each other notice of their intention to re-negotiate these Agreements.

The Agreements included a clause which provided for automatic renewal in 5 year periods unless either party gave notice of determination by not less than a year before the Agreements were due to expire. As the Authority was not constituted in September 1985, the advance notice requirement slipped by unobtrusively and automatic renewal ensued.

The provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance relating to the responsibility of the Authority, in the entire sphere of Wired Sound and Television broadcasting were translated in the Agreements as powers and rights of the Authority over its Contractor.

There were originally three Agreements relating to (1) a Television Broadcasting Service, (2) a Wired Sound Broadcasting Service and (3) a Wireless Sound Broadcasting Service. The last mentioned service was not taken up by the Contractor and lapsed in 1972. The Wired Sound Service ceased to operate in January 1989 and the relative Agreement was made applicable to the Radio Malta Services provided by Xandir Malta.

The Agreements were almost identical in nature. They both conferred on the Contractor the right to provide broadcasting services but this was without prejudice to the right of the Authority itself to provide such services. Each Agreement contained a clause empowering the Authority to prescribe programmes. This requirement was laid down in paragraph 5 of the Second Schedule of the old Ordinance. Other clauses in the Agreements required the Authority to spend at least Lm35,000 a year in the prescription and/or in the improvement of programmes. This was the most controversial clause in the Agreements and in 1973 Government refused to allocate funds to the Authority if these were to be used to honour this particular obligation. This situation persisted. However as this clause has never been formally rescinded or amended in any way, the Authority's accounts show the sum of Lm357,597 (mainly due to this accumulated deficit) as still outstanding in terms of this contractual obligation.

In return for the privilege of providing broadcasting services, the Television Contractor used to pay the Authority an annual licence fee of Lm750 and for the Radio franchise the sum of Lm1 per annum.

The Television Broadcasting Agreement required the Contractor to broadcast a minimum of 3 hours a day and a minimum of 28 hours a week. It also laid down minimum requirements for recorded programmes, programmes of Maltese origin and performance and specified that a reasonable part of such programmes should be in the Maltese language.

The Authority's right to prescribe programmes is tied up with the Contractor's duty to exact payment in consideration of the provision of airtime and other facilities requested by the Authority. In return for these services, the Contractor may charge "*... such sums as shall represent ... normal charges for programmes, appropriate broadcasting time and facilities....*". Up to September 1991 these charges were fixed at the rate of Lm5 per minute.

The Agreements included a number of Schedules in relation to quality and content of programmes as well as provisions relating to advertisements.

The Authority hopes that negotiations with Public Broadcasting Services Ltd will commence soon to draw up a new contract which will set out the Authority's future relationship with the public broadcasting media.

The News Services

The greater part of Malta's adult population watch¹ or tune in to one or more of the several main news bulletins broadcast daily by TVM and by the four radio services which were operating by the end of the year under review. This makes broadcast news an important source of information and, consequently, of great potential influence in the formation of public opinion.

For these reasons, the Authority devotes particular attention to the news services and, since much of the news is dominated by local politics, insists on fair and impartial treatment as well as on the necessity for consistency in reporting political activity.

The Authority strictly believes in and has constantly urged the observance of the principle that news should be a fair selection of items impartially presented and in making this selection the sole test that applies is that of news value. The Authority also acknowledges that news value is often a matter for subjective judgement, however this must be based on integrity, professional competence and experience. There were many occasions during the year when this cardinal principle had to be explained to complainants. Whenever the need arose, the Authority also explained that it could not substitute its own judgement for that of the professional newsmen or women especially when it was convinced that the broadcaster's discretion had been exercised judiciously.

In August 1991, the Authority set up an Advisory Committee to help in formulating guidelines for the news sector. The committee was composed of

Mr John A Mizzi
Mr Tonio Portuguese²
Mrs Rose Sciberras³
Mr Richard Stagno Navarra

and was set the following terms of reference:

1. Audience Research findings published by the Broadcasting Authority in March, 1990.
2. Mr Portuguese had to relinquish his appointment on becoming a director of PBS Ltd.
3. Mrs Sciberras resigned from this committee early in 1992.

- a) *to draw up and submit for the Authority's consideration an overall plan designed to bring about an improvement in the present methods of collecting, editing and presenting news;*
- b) *to help the Authority to produce properly balanced discussions or debates that afford access to persons from different interest groups with different points of view and also to help the Authority produce commentaries or other programmes about questions relating to current public policy wherein persons taking part can put forward different views and comments;*
- c) *to inform the Authority about their (the committee members) personal reactions to news and current affairs programmes.*

It may be essential for this purpose to consider radio and television as separate and distinct media each with its particular characteristics and different methods of conveying news to the public. The Authority hopes that any measures implemented as a result of the committee's recommendations will bring about a change in the behaviour of established broadcasting organizations and will direct on the right lines others newly set up in this field.

Various recommendations were made by this committee some of which were proposed to Xandir Malta for implementation. However, an overall plan had not yet been formulated and in view of developments which depleted the committee's membership, the Authority was in the process of reviewing the future position of this advisory committee.

There is no doubt that pluralism which at least up to now has resulted in an enlarged radio spectrum, has had a beneficial effect on the news services provided by the public broadcasting sector.

With the end of the monopoly situation, commercial broadcasters came on the scene and these were occasionally more adventurous in bulletin style making full use of actuality and voice clips. These stations also realised the importance of in-depth current affairs programming provided by public radio ("**Ilum**" / "**Attwalita**") and television ("**Malta u lil Hinn Minnha**"). Xandir Malta's news services gradually became more lively and, as a result, more interesting for the audience to follow. During the last quarter of 1991, PBS news adopted much of its competitors' style with more investigative stories and less dependence on press release items.

The Authority hopes that this situation is not just a transitional phase. Competition should help to keep private broadcasters responsible in their attitude towards the public and the public broadcasting services lively and interesting.

Half-way through the year under review, Xandir Malta on the Authority's insistence introduced a second full news bulletin in Maltese which had to be broadcast daily on TVM at about 10.15 p.m. There were two main reasons for this additional news outlet: first, to provide an alternative for those who normally follow the news but miss the 8 p.m. bulletin and, secondly, to serve as a vehicle for carrying the news on the day it occurs even if this takes place during the late evening hours. The practice before the introduction of the second news bulletin was to carry over to the next day's TV news at 8 p.m. any items which did not make the previous day's deadline. This often resulted in the rather absurd situation of having as one of the lead items on TV news, a report about some political or other activity which would have already been carried by the newspapers throughout the day.

As a result of this change, the news in brief in English which used to be transmitted between 10-11 p.m., was transferred to a slot just before station close down. This prompted several complaints from foreign English speaking residents. However, after explaining the position and with the increase in the number of radio news services in the English language, these protests ceased altogether. In reassessing the situation, the Authority believes that the second TV news bulletin had achieved its main scope and was rendering considerable service to the community.³

Early during the year, the Authority noted an increase in the number of news items based on political speeches which included allegations of a serious nature. The Authority, after careful consideration, drew the station's attention that accuracy also implies that the information carried in the news conforms with reality and is not in any way misleading or false. The Authority also cautioned against the broadcast of reports on serious allegations which are not substantiated unless these are accompanied by comments obtained from those quarters affected by the allegation. This prudent course was in line with requirements of broadcasting legislation, the Press Act and professional journalistic practice.

Complaints

Section 34 of the Broadcasting Act 1991 vests the Authority with the power and the duty to consider complaints of:

- (a) *unjust or unfair treatment in sound or television programmes broadcast by any person providing broadcasting services in Malta;*

3. According to an audience survey carried out during the second week of January 1992, about 67,000 persons follow this news service on a regular basis.

- (b) *unwarranted infringement of privacy in, or in connection with the obtaining of material included in, sound or television programmes so broadcast.*

This section of the Act also lays down that complaints are to be submitted in writing by the person affected or by a person authorised by him to make the complaint for him. Furthermore, section 34 (3) provides the following definitions of “the person affected” who:

- (i) *in relation to any unjust or unfair treatment as is mentioned in (a) above, means a participant in the programme in question who was the subject of that treatment or a person who, whether such a participant or not, had a direct interest in the subject matter of that treatment;*
- (ii) *in relation to any such unwarranted infringement of privacy as is so mentioned, means a person whose privacy was infringed; and*

“Unjust or unfair treatment” includes treatment which is unjust or unfair because of the way in which material included in a programme had been selected as arranged.

Paragraph 2(c)(vii) of the First Schedule to the Broadcasting Act also requires the Authority’s licensees and contractors “to adopt procedures to handle complaints from viewers and listeners”.

In view of these statutory requirements, the Broadcasting Authority formulated the following procedure which the public and all stations providing broadcasting services were asked to observe that:

1. All complaints should be made promptly in writing and should be addressed to the Station concerned.
2. Complaints should be dealt with promptly by the Station.
3. If a complaint is upheld in whole or in part, the Station should take appropriate action, notifying the Authority and the complainant in writing of the action taken.
4. If a complaint is not upheld, the Station shall:
 - a) so inform complainant, and
 - b) inform complainant of his/her right to refer matter to the Authority for a review of the broadcaster’s decision, and

- c) notify the Authority of the decision taken and provide it with a copy of all relevant correspondence.
5. After reviewing complaints brought to its attention in accordance with this procedure, the Authority shall communicate its decision to the parties concerned.
6. The Authority's decision shall be final.

These arrangements which came into effect in November 1991, are intended to hasten the consideration of complaints and to establish a two-tier system which should lead to complaints being investigated in a thorough and just manner.

The position over a three-year period in connection with complaints made in writing to the Authority or as set out in the procedure introduced in 1991, is shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Number and Adjudication of Complaints

	<u>Year</u>		
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Upheld	23	16	11
Partly upheld	17	22	10
Not upheld	127	58	43
Noted	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Number of complaints	<u>169</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>68</u>

Table 2: Source of Complaints

	<u>Year</u>		
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Political Interests*	132	46	54
Trade Unions	21	17	5
Constituted bodies	16	36	5
Miscellaneous	—	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals	<u>169</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>68</u>

* The majority of complaints were received from the Malta Labour Party.



Audience Research

Television and radio, especially the latter, have become media of continuing rapid change. During 1991 the number of radio services doubled and will probably double again next year. This abundance of stations has, to a certain extent, fragmented the audience for individual services and this, in turn, makes it imperative for the broadcasters to know where they stand in relation to each of the other stations. Apart from this aspect, the Broadcasting Authority itself is required by law to ascertain:

- (a) the state of listenership or viewership of broadcasting services provided in Malta;*
- (b) the state of public opinion concerning programmes included in broadcasting services provided in Malta;*
- (c) any effects of such programmes on the attitudes or behaviour of those who watch them; and*
- (d) the types of programmes that members of the public would like to be included in broadcasting services provided in Malta.*

Since 1990, the Authority had undertaken a large-scale national survey to assess public attitudes towards certain sectors of broadcasting. The survey¹ which was completed during 1991 covered a number of areas studied the previous year for purposes of comparison and included: Radio and TV Set Ownership, viewers' and listeners' programme preferences and attitudes towards prospective private radio stations.

The findings also included audience reactions to various aspects of the news service. The survey supplied a useful snapshot of public attitudes on important aspects of broadcasting evaluated on the eve of the introduction of pluralism in local broadcasting.

Equipped to View and Listen

The extent of the potential influence of radio and television broadcasting in Malta can be gauged from the fact that television and radio set ownership extends practically to the whole population. Radio sets with VHF/FM

1. The interviewing and data analysis were carried out for the Authority by Malta University Services Ltd.

reception capability are available to approximately 96% whilst 98.7% have a TV set installed in their house. 17.2% of the population have more than one TV set and 76% of Maltese households are equipped with at least a colour TV set.

Maltese vs Italian TV

Television Malta (TVM) retained the highest first preference audience rating which, at 43% of viewers, showed a comfortable but not flattering individual lead over its continental rivals - RAI and the Berlusconi Group - capable of local reception. Italian state and private TV Stations received first preference rating from 29% and 27% of local viewers respectively.

The News

News programmes are extremely popular with Maltese audiences. The 8.00 p.m. news bulletin on local television had an estimated viewership of 83% (compared to 80% during 1990) of the total population aged 16 and over. Asked about the type of programme which survey respondents preferred, 43.7% opted for documentaries whilst another 23.5% mentioned current affairs programmes.

People in the 65+ age bracket expressed the highest level of first preferences for news and religious programmes whilst younger age groups also showed a marked degree of interest where news was concerned.

Political Content

Local news on television reflects, in generous measure, the political activity that takes place in the country. Political content is normally measured in terms of accumulated minutes or the number of appearances in the news over a period of time. Equally important, though, is the opinion of the audience: what viewers and listeners think, may hinge just as much on the way a political news item is treated as on the extent of which politicians are included in the news. The 1991 audience survey revealed that public opinion tends to point towards an excess of politically related items in the news. In fact, 57.2% of the viewing public of 16 years or over confirmed this view.

Political parties, in turn, tend to be concerned about their broadcast news coverage in comparison with that of their political rivals. This leads to judgements being made about possible political bias in the news. The audience research showed that approximately 70% of respondents did not think that the news was politically biased. This was an improvement on last

year's figure of 59%. Of those who detected signs of bias, 24% (1990:26%) were inclined to think that this was in favour of the Nationalist Party while 6% (1990:14%) were of the opinion that bias existed but this favoured the Malta Labour Party.

Television Programmes

An analysis of the data collected through this survey, with particular reference to public likes and dislikes in so far as television programmes are concerned, resulted in the following summary:

Programmes			
Liked Most		Liked Least	
	%		%
1. News	64.4	1. Sports	37.2
2. Films	48.9	2. Pop Music	33.7
3. Documentaries	43.7	3. Classical Music	25.9
4. Variety shows	32.2	4. Serials	24.8
5. Sports	30.2	5. Drama	15.2
6. Serials	28.7	6. Films	12.8
7. Religious	27.4	7. Variety Shows	11.1
8. Current Affairs	23.5	8. Documentaries	8.3
9. Drama	22.4	9. Current Affairs	6.7
10. Pop Music	16.9	10. News	3.7

Radio Programmes

Radio programming presented a different pattern. This survey clearly showed that radio is listened to mainly for news and for its music element. Radio plays, discussions and other speech programmes are relatively

popular but television seemed to be mainly accountable for the marked fall in audiences in this sector.

The following table shows listeners' preferences to a set list of radio programmes:

Programmes	Preferences		
	First	Second	Third
	%	%	%
1. News	36	19	14
2. Pop Music	24	13	5
3. Discussion Programmes	9	13	20
4. Maltese Readings	6	6	8
5. Sports	5	8	9
6. Classical Music	4	7	5
7. Radio Plays	3	10	11
8. Quizzes	3	8	9
9. Political Broadcasts	1	2	3

The totals of each column do not add up to a hundred per cent because of respondents' limited interest in the then existing radio programming.

New Radio Services

The 1991 attitudes survey included a section meant to gather information about public opinion on the proposed private radio services for which applications had been issued by the Authority in terms of the new broadcasting law.

Although it was then too early to assess firm public opinion on the proposed radio stations, most members of the public already associated (perhaps not too arbitrarily) political programming with party stations and religious

programmes with the Church station. However, when asked to express **their** preference for programme production by these new services, a surprisingly high number of respondents opted for educational and cultural programmes. News coverage and music programmes also ranked high in the list of preferences.

Community stations were, quite rightly, seen by 54% of the population (16 years +) as a means to convey community events and announcements to the 'neighbourhood'. 33% thought these stations should be used to reinforce civic education campaigns. Another 19% of the population appeared to be puzzled about the proper functions of these stations and refused to comment. It was also interesting to note that when asked if they were willing to take an active part in the Community station set-up, 60% said "No" whilst 35% of respondents were willing to give it a try. The rest had not yet made up their mind what to do.

The value of such surveys lies in their continuity and ability to detect shifts in public opinion. Such research work and the indications it provides help both to highlight areas for further detailed study and to guide programme planners and others who need to be sensitive to public opinion.

The survey was based on a random sample of 540 Maltese adults (aged 16 years and over) scientifically selected to represent the population of Malta and Gozo.



International Contacts

The Authority, from its early formative years, had kept in touch with broadcasting organisations and associations from which much valuable help and advice was obtained. Mainly for this reason, the Authority has maintained and at times increased its contacts with such respected international organisations as the European Broadcasting Union, the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association and the European Institute for the Media.

Vatican Conference

In June 1991, the Authority's chairman and the chief executive took part in the 42nd Ordinary session of the General Assembly of the European Broadcasting Union. This was held in the Vatican City and coincided with the 60th anniversary of Radio Vaticana.

Matters of interest to the Authority discussed during the General Assembly consisted, amongst other things, of increased co-operation in programming between member countries; the portrayal of violence on television and the harmonization of television audience measurement in Europe. The conference was addressed by His Holiness the Pope who spoke about the public obligations of those responsible for the mass media. The Pope stressed Church interest in moral questions raised by the media's influence on people's thinking and behaviour. He also spoke about the principle of a just distribution of responsibility and resources between the public and private broadcasting sectors.

The EBU General Assembly was attended by representatives from 41 countries including delegates from several of the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe.

European Television and Film Forum

The Broadcasting Authority is represented on the European Television and Film Forum by its Chief Executive who attended the third session of the Forum which took place in Nice on 21-23 November 1991. Over 150 delegates from every sector of the European audiovisual industry were brought together to discuss the main theme of the Forum : "*Conflict or co-operation in European Film and Television.*"

The Forum divided into specialist working groups with Malta's representative taking part in discussions of the group formed by regulatory agencies in the broadcasting field. The Forum acknowledged that contrasts and conflicts which existed do not have to go unrecognised: the rivalry between television and the cinema is not only diminishing but there is a growing spirit of partnership. There is also an aspiration for unity to overcome barriers brought about by geographic, linguistic and cultural differences still existing in Europe. Projects such as "Euronews" would help to advance the cause of cultural unity.

The European Institute for the Media devotes a large part of its research activities to these problems. The Institute is the European centre for policy oriented research and development in the fields of radio, television, the press and related issues in mass communications.

Commonwealth Song Competition

The Authority was asked for the second time (it had already organised the 1989 competition) to organise Malta's participation in the Commonwealth Song Competition which is held under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat. In fact, the Authority with the full co-operation of the Union of Composers and Authors (UKAM) set up the necessary framework within which two songs were, after an elimination process, selected from a total of 16 entries of which 14 qualified for adjudication.

An expert adjudicating panel selected the songs entitled "*Composition*" and "*Blend and Go Beyond*" as the first and second best entries respectively. Phyllisienne Brincat and Leslie Vassallo composed and wrote the lyrics for the first classified entry while Mark Abela and John Paul Grech were the composer and lyricist respectively of the entry classified second. These songs competed with others provided by most Commonwealth countries. The overall winner came from the Bahamas.

Overseas Courses

During a visit to the BBC in November 1991, the Chief Executive met the BBC's Head of Television Training and reached agreement in principle¹ for a place to be reserved on a television production course for a member of the Authority's staff.

This course offers intensive training in television direction and gives participants an opportunity to develop their production skills with BBC

1. A place for the Authority's nominee was subsequently confirmed on the BBC course taking place from 6 July - 28 August, 1992.

crews. The course covers most types of programme output including news interviews, magazine programmes, discussion, documentary and drama.

It is hoped that the BBC will accept to train other Maltese candidates in the techniques of radio and television production.



PICTORIAL REVIEW

A Visual Record
of some of the
Authority's
activities
throughout
1991



The Authority in Session

l. to r. Mr Joseph J. Camilleri, Mr Joseph Sammut, Mr Harry Zammit Cordina (*Secretary*), Mr Laurence Mizzi (*Chairman*), Mr Antoine Ellul (*Chief Executive*), Prof. Kenneth Wain, Dr Austin Sammut.

30th Anniversary



Anniversary Plaque



E.B.U. Group meeting in Malta

Social Occasions



*The President and Mrs Tabone with the Authority's Chairman
attending the main Anniversary event.*

30th Anniversary



*Board Members, Staff and their families celebrate the 30th Anniversary
of the Authority's foundation on 29 September 1991.*

“Il-Kwadru Tieghi” – (My favourite painting)



“Saint Jerome” by Caravaggio. First programme in the series. A 13-part series of television programmes to encourage art appreciation. Produced by the Authority as part of its 30th Anniversary celebrations.



The President's choice:

“L'Isle Adam”, Malta's first Grandmaster, by Favray

Broadcasting Authority Chairmen 1961 - 1991

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY CHAIRMEN	
THE HON EDWARD ARRIGO CBE	16.02.62 - 28.09.64
JUDGE ANTOINE J. MONTANARO GAUCI CBE, KM	29.09.64 - 28.09.71
CHEV. JOSEPH P. VASSALLO CBE	29.09.71 - 17.09.72
DR. GEORGE DECAETANO	18.07.72 - 16.04.75
DR. VINCENT FALZON	17.04.75 - 22.04.74
CHEV. PROF. CARMELO COLIERO	25.04.74 - 03.06.76
BRIG. GEORGE V. MCALLEE CBE	04.06.76 - 27.09.76
DR. CERALD MONTANARO GAUCI	18.10.76 - 17.10.78
GODFREY CRAIC	18.10.78 - 07.11.79
COSMO MONTEBELLO	08.11.79 - 07.11.80
PROF. EDWIN BUSUTTIL	21.01.81 - 05.05.81
EMANUEL A. BONELLO	25.10.81 - 31.12.82
DR. JOSEPH MCALLEE STAFRACE	18.07.86 - 21.07.89
LAURENCE MIZZI	22.07.89 -



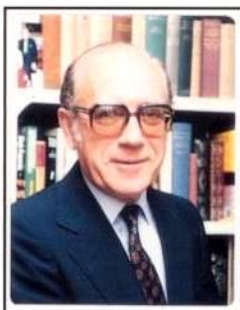
*The Hon. Edward Arrigo,
CBE*



*Judge Antoine J.
Montanaro Gauci,
CBE, KM*



*Chev. Joseph P. Vassallo,
OBE*



Dr George Degaetano



Dr Vincent Falzon



*Chev. Prof. Carmelo
Coleiro*



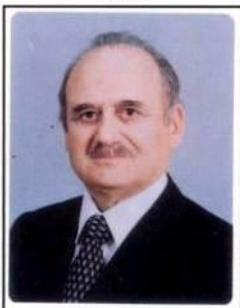
*Brig. George V. Micallef,
C.B.E.*



*Dr Gerald Montanaro
Gauci*



Godfrey Craig



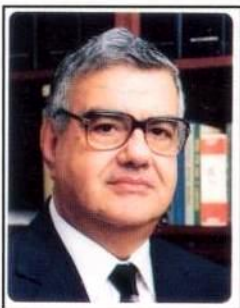
Cosimo Montebello



Prof. Edwin Busuttil



Emanuel A. Bonello



*Dr. Joseph Micallef
Stafrace*



Laurence Mizzi

Licensing The New Radio Services

The first three private radio licences were awarded by the Authority on 7 November 1991 to Island Sound Radio, Bay Radio and Radio One Live.



Licence giving ceremony. Chairman making key note speech.



Celebrating issue of the first three private nation-wide radio licences.

The Master Antenna



Station Logos



The main transmitting tower and the common antenna at Gharghur.

Visiting Lecturer



*Seminar on "Pluralism in Broadcasting – The European Experience"
Guest Speaker: Prof George Wedell, Director of the European Institute
for the Media.*



*Visit to the President of Malta.
The Authority together with Professor Wedell.*

International Relations

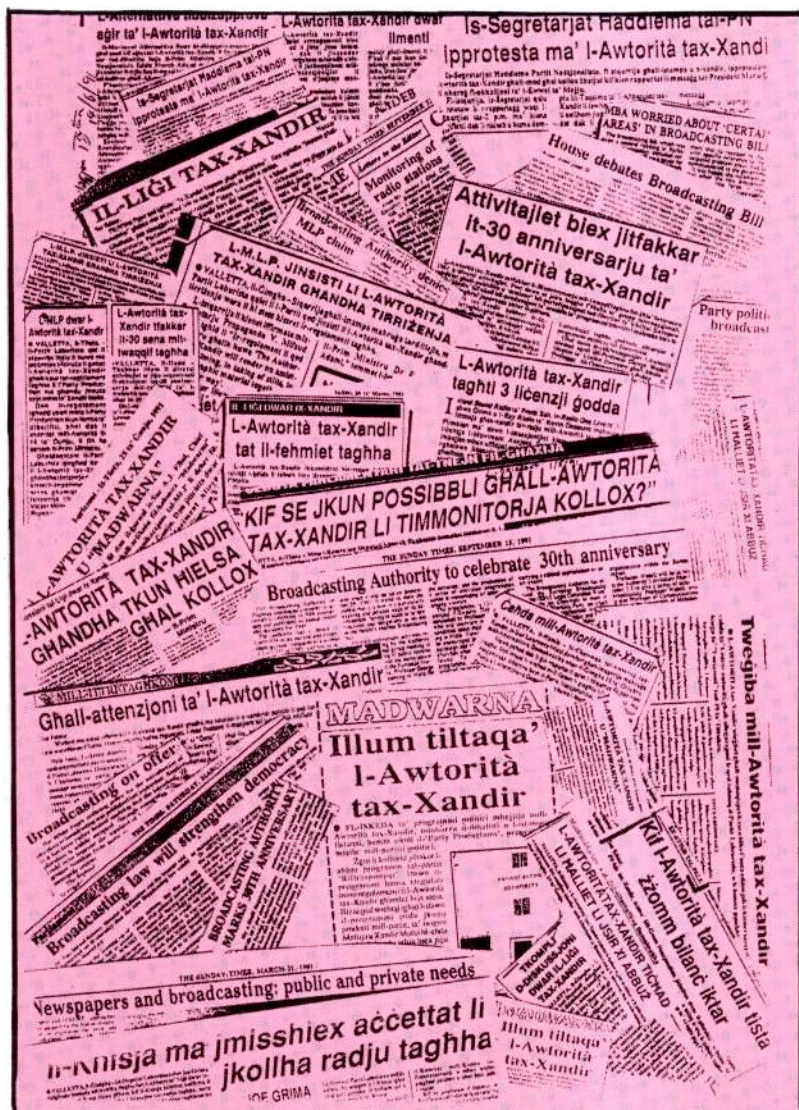


*E.B.U. Conference at the Vatican.
The Authority's Chairman and Chief Executive attend the
42nd Ordinary Session of the General Assembly
of the European Broadcasting Union.*



*The winners of Malta's two song entries for
the Commonwealth Song Competition.*

Accountability The Authority and the Press





APPENDICES

Copy of a letter dated 27 March 1991 sent by the Authority's Chairman to the Prime Minister. This letter was laid on the Table of the House of Representatives on 10 April 1991.

The Broadcasting Bill

The Broadcasting Authority has given considerable thought to the proposed legislation which will regulate radio and television broadcasting services in Malta.

The Authority notes with satisfaction that Government has adopted most of its recommendations made in response to proposals contained in the White Paper issued by Government last September. However, there are certain areas which still give cause for concern. The Authority's reaction with specific reference to these areas is contained in the following points:

1. Balance and Impartiality

The concept introduced by Government in Section 13 of the Bill affects the current practice of interpreting the constitutional obligation of impartiality as a definite requirement applicable to each broadcasting service that may be provided in Malta. Whilst the Authority concedes that in a widened spectrum of broadcasting activities it would be possible to allow for a slant by any particularly oriented service, this will have to be within an overall framework of balance and impartiality. This interpretation excludes, of course, any approval being given by the Authority to programming which, in dealing with controversial subjects, does not observe the obligations laid down by section 119 of the Constitution.

With regard to the observance of accuracy and impartiality in news services, the Authority firmly believes that all news programmes in

whatever form must be accurate and impartial in themselves. An appropriate range of views on controversial subjects should be reported either within a single bulletin or in a series of bulletins which are as adjacent as is reasonably possible.

The Authority, therefore, recommends that the proviso to section 13(2) should be suitably amended.

2. *Political Broadcasts*

Section 13(4) of the Bill refers to the Authority's duty to organize schemes of political broadcasts. As it is not clear from the Bill whether station operators could also provide similar schemes, the Authority proposes that in view of the delicate nature of these broadcasts, the organization of such schemes should be the exclusive preserve of the Authority. In this case an amendment to this section is indicated.

3. *Political Advertising*

The Authority takes note of the fact that spot advertising is being extended to include political publicity. This is evident from Section 13(4) and from paragraph 1 (c) of the Third Schedule to the Bill. The experience gained from similar situations in other countries shows that apart from the rules and regulations which apply to general advertising, paid or unpaid advertising of a political nature should only be allowed on the broadcasting media with the Authority's control and approval.

4. *Remuneration and Staff Appointments*

Reference is also made to Sections 7 and 9 of the Bill which deal with the subject in caption.

The remuneration payable to the members of the Authority should in our view be determined by the President of Malta acting on the advice of the Prime Minister. This will be in consonance with the appointment procedure laid down in the Constitution and would reflect the impartiality required of members who occupy these posts.

Section 9 deals **inter alia** with staff salaries which according to the provisions of this section "shall be comparable with those of employees in the service of Government" and shall be established by the Authority with the concurrence of the Prime Minister.

The Authority feels that these restrictions are no longer necessary since the Authority, entrusted with its other onerous obligations, could also be trusted to act responsibly in this matter. Apart from the fact that several posts on the Authority's staff structure have no counterparts in Government Service, it is also felt that the Authority's independence and freedom of action should not be limited in any way.

(sgd) Laurence Mizzi
Chairman

cc. The Hon. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici LL.D.,
Minister for Education

The Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, LL.D.,
Parliamentary Secretary responsible
for Broadcasting

Guidelines for Applicants for a VHF/FM Nationwide Sound Broadcasting Radio Service

PART I INTRODUCTION

1. *Invitation to Apply*

- 1.1 This document constitutes the Broadcasting Authority's invitation to organisations or companies wishing to apply for the award of a licence to operate a VHF/FM nationwide sound broadcasting radio service.
- 1.2 Part I explains the administrative arrangements connected with the submission of an application. Part II provides information which an applicant will wish to take into account in deciding whether to make an application and in the drawing up of the application. Part III states the information which the Broadcasting Authority requires in order to consider an application for a broadcasting licence and the way that information should be presented.
- 1.3 Accompanying this documentation is a specimen standard form of licence. Successful applicants will be issued in due course with a broadcasting licence substantially in this form. The Annexes to the licence which will be made available later will contain the conditions reflecting the proposals relating to the service which are made by the successful applicant as well as other matters. The Authority's codes and other relevant documents with which the applicant will also need to be familiar are listed in Annex "B". Documents on this list will, eventually, also be available from the Broadcasting Authority.

- 1.4 Broadcasting licences for nationwide sound radio services will be for a period of eight years and prospective licensees will be required to opt for:
- (a) One of **seven** services (including one provided by the Public Broadcasting Service) which will transmit for at least twelve hours daily and which will comprise education, information and entertainment programming calculated to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests, and not limited to a narrow format. A number of these services however may be more specifically tourist-oriented; or
 - (b) One of **three** twenty-four hour live stereo services providing music, information, news analysis, interview, discussions and phone-in programmes.

2. *Submissions of Applications*

- 2.1 The closing date for applications is 24 June 1991.
- 2.2 Applications for broadcasting licences will not be valid unless:
- (a) They are in the form prescribed in Part III, are typed, are provided in Maltese and English and in each case are supplied in twelve copies.
 - (b) They include a summary of essential features of the application set out in Annex "D".
 - (c) They are accompanied by the appropriate application fee.
 - (d) They are received at the Broadcasting Authority Offices, National Road, Blata l-Bajda not later than 1700 hours on the closing date stated in paragraph 2.1.
- 2.3 Only applications which comply with the requirements set out above will be considered by the Authority whose decision will, subject to the appeals procedure contemplated in Section 11 (3) of the Broadcasting Act, otherwise be final.
- 2.4 The Authority will regard the submission of an application as an indication of applicant's willingness to accept, if offered, a broadcasting licence on the terms indicated.

- 2.5 The Authority will accept no liability for any expense incurred by applicant in preparing an application, whether or not the application is successful.
- 2.6 The Authority will entertain no enquiry about the procedure for making an application except those provided in writing to the Authority's Chief Executive. The Authority cannot advise applicants about the commercial prospects of any broadcasting licence.

PART II

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

3. *General*

- 3.1 The Broadcasting Authority is responsible under the provisions of the Broadcasting Act 1991, for issuing licences in respect of radio and television services in Malta and for the regulation of such services. This section sets out some aspects of the system of regulation. The information given is not to be regarded as an exhaustive account of the statutory and licencing requirements and must not be taken as a substitute for a thorough reading of the Act itself. Applicants are advised to consult their own legal and professional advisers before submitting an application for a licence.
- 3.2 The Broadcasting Authority will not be responsible for the scheduling, editorial content or transmission of programmes. Licensees will be expected to take direct responsibility for the content of their service and to ensure compliance with the terms of their licence, the applicable legislation - and this includes, particularly, the Press Act, 1974 - and the relevant codes and guidelines.
- 3.3 The proposals made by the applicant to whom a licence is granted in terms of Section 10 of the Broadcasting Act, 1991, will form the subject matter of conditions to be set out in one of the Annexes to the licence.
- 3.4 The applicant will be required to satisfy the Authority that whilst he has the capacity to run a lively and distinctive radio station, he also has adequate procedures for ensuring compliance with the provisions of

the legislation, the licence, the codes and directives issued by the Authority and for handling complaints.

4. *Audience Protection Requirements*

- 4.1 The Authority is legally obliged to do all it can to ensure that all licensed services comply with various programme requirements. For example that due impartiality is preserved in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy and that nothing is included in the programmes which offends against religious sentiment, good taste or decency. The Authority must also do all it can to secure compliance with requirements relating to standards and practice in advertising and in programme sponsorship. The Authority is also required to draw up, and from time to time review, in conjunction with the Minister responsible for Broadcasting, codes on matters which are listed in Annex "B" and is required to do all it can to secure observance of their provisions.
- 4.2 The Authority may also issue directions. It may for example give directions with respect to the extent of the locally originated content of a programme schedule and with regard to the times when advertisements are to be allowed. The Authority's "Principles to be followed in broadcasting Advertisements on Sound and Television", which is referred to in Annex "B", sets out the rules currently in force. These may be amended from time to time.

5. *Sanctions*

- 5.1 The Broadcasting Authority is empowered by the Broadcasting Act to apply penalties in respect of breaches of licence conditions. This includes breaches of requirements set out in the codes, etc. which are to be enforced under the licence. Sanctions will include directions given by the Authority to a licensee to broadcast a correction or an apology. Sanctions will also include the power to impose financial penalties, to suspend the operation of a licence and to revoke licences. Revocation of a licence may result in the requirement to pay a financial penalty. Broadcasting licensees affected by such action may have recourse to the Court of Appeal.

6. *Ownership*

- 6.1 Section 10(4) of the Broadcasting Act lays down that a licence for a nationwide sound broadcasting service may be granted to a partnership regularly constituted in Malta which has a majority of its voting

shares controlled by Maltese citizens. The Authority will normally regard a holding of 51 per cent or more of the voting shares in a company as constituting control; this however does not preclude the Authority from looking at the whole situation in order to establish where control really lies.

- 6.2 The Authority may revoke a licence at any time if any change takes place affecting the nature or characteristics of the licensee, or in the persons having control over or interests in the licensee, such that, if the Authority were to determine whether to award the licence in the changed circumstances, it would be induced by the change not to do so.
- 6.3 Once a licence has been granted, any change in the position affecting the shareholding of, or control over the company shall be brought immediately to the attention of the Authority.
- 6.4 No organisation or company may own, control or be editorially responsible for more than one broadcasting service licensed by the Authority.

7. *Payments by Applicants and Licensees*

- 7.1 Applicants for a licence for a nationwide sound broadcasting radio service will be required to make a non refundable payment of Lm2,500 to the Authority.
- 7.2 The licensee will, during the period of the licence, pay to the Authority an annual fee of Lm5,000.
- 7.3 The above fees will help the Authority towards meeting some of its costs and running expenses and include the applicant's and licensee's contribution to the Inspectorate of Wireless Telegraphy for its technical assistance in relation to the applications and the normal servicing of licence conditions.

8. *Renewal of Licence*

- 8.1 The licensee may apply to the Authority for a renewal of licence up to one year before the date on which the licence would otherwise expire. The Authority may only refuse such an application where it is not satisfied that the licensee applying for renewal would provide a service which complied with the conditions in his licence referred to in paragraph 3.3 of this document or for any other reasonable cause. The new term of the licence will run from the date of renewal.

- 8.2 The Authority may however set new financial terms where it grants an application for renewal. The licensee applying for renewal must give his consent to the new financial terms. If he does not do so, the licence may continue for its full course and a fresh invitation for applications will be issued before the end of the term.

9. *Broadcasting Frequencies*

Applicants should be aware that the Authority is not responsible for frequencies. These are made available by the Minister responsible for Wireless Telegraphy to the Authority in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Broadcasting Act.

10. *The Licensing Procedure*

- 10.1 The applicant will be required to describe in his application the service he is proposing to provide. On the basis of this information, the Authority will then determine whether, in its view, the applicant is proposing a service which satisfies its requirements.
- 10.2 Applications must be received by the Authority by the stipulated date and time limits. A receipt will be issued to each applicant from whom an application has been received. It is the responsibility of the applicant, and not of the Authority, to ensure that his application as submitted is complete and conforms fully with the requirements set out in paragraph 2.2. of this document.
- 10.3 The Authority will publish as soon as is reasonably practicable after the closing date a list of the names of all persons and organisations from whom a valid application has been received. Applicants whose application is judged by the Authority to be invalid will be notified that their application will not be considered further.

11. *Assessing Applications - The Programme Service*

- 11.1 The Authority is required by law to specifically take into consideration the quality of scheduled programming offered by applicants as one of the criteria for the award of a licence. The programming proposals submitted by the applicant will serve both to enable the Authority to evaluate the application and, subsequently, should a licence be issued, to regulate the programming performance of the licensee.

- 11.2 It is, therefore, important that there should be clarity and consistency in programming proposals. However, the Authority also recognises that there must be flexibility over a period of time if the appeal of the service to its audience is to be maintained. The detailed programme proposals, particularly for the three 24-hour live stereo services, may be altered from time to time by agreement between the Authority and the licensee to permit account to be taken of changing tastes and preferences of the audience.

News Programmes

- 11.3 The applicant's proposals for local and foreign news services which he will provide must, as a minimum, consist of appropriate bulletins during early morning hours, at lunchtime, in the early evening and in peaktime (6.00 - 10.30 p.m.).
- 11.4 The news given in the programmes (in whatever form) must be accurate and impartial in subject matter and professional in presentation. Live coverage will be required of important, fast moving events, with news flashes outside regular bulletins when appropriate.

Attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 13 of the Broadcasting Act 1991 and to the discretion the Authority has thereunder.

- 11.5 Licensees can, with the Authority's approval, negotiate the provision of additional news or special events programmes.

Current Affairs Programmes

- 11.6 The proposals put forward by the applicant must include at least three hours per week averaged over a month of current affairs programmes which are of high quality and deal with both national and international matters.
- 11.7 A current affairs programme will be held for this purpose to be a programme which contains explanation and analysis of current events. The definition would include programmes dealing with political or industrial controversy or with current public policy.

Diversity in the Programme Service

- 11.8 The applicant's general aims and intentions in providing a radio service should be stated. In considering the diversity of the proposed

service, the Authority will have regard to the programme range. This applies particularly to the applicants for the licences of the 12-hour daily services which should comprise programming of an educational, informative and entertainment nature calculated to appeal to a variety of tastes and interests.

- 11.9 The categories and sub-categories of programmes which applicants for licences - not those meant to be specifically tourist-oriented - may be required to provide are as follows:

1. **Drama**, including single plays and anthologies of single plays transmitted as a series.

Drama series, with a dramatic narrative running over a limited number of episodes or separate stories sharing common characters.

Drama serials, running over an unlimited number of episodes.

2. **Entertainment**, including comedy and satire, game and quiz shows, chat shows, variety and music.
3. **Sport**, including coverage of events, magazine and news programmes.
4. **News**, including news bulletins and news flashes, news magazines and weather forecasts.
5. **Factual** programmes including current affairs, defined as programmes which contain explanation and analysis of current affairs, including programmes dealing with political or industrial controversy or with public policy.

General factual, defined as documentaries and features.

6. **Education**, including adult education and social education.
7. **Religion**, including services when appropriate and programmes examining religious issues and reflecting faith and belief.
8. **Arts**, consisting of theatre, music, dance, cinema, photography and literature, presented and reviewed in relays of performance or exhibitions or special features.
9. **Children's** including drama, information, and entertainment.

- 11.10 An applicant may submit for the Authority's consideration that the exclusion of some element of the programme structure outlined above is justified by the characteristics of the audience he intends to serve or by his capability to give better value in other elements of programming.
- 11.11 The Authority will wish to be satisfied as far as possible that the talents and abilities of applicant's team of employees and contributors are capable of supporting his aspirations for the service. Financial, programming and general management will need to be taken into account as well as the creative and professional skills relevant to the production or commissioning of programmes.

***Party Political Broadcasts,
Commentaries and Discussion Programmes***

- 11.12 Licensees may be required to provide the Authority with studio, recording and transmission facilities in connection with the production and transmission of party political and general election broadcasts. Similar facilities may also be required by the Authority for commentaries and discussion programmes.
- 11.13 The Authority will announce the allocation of time for party broadcasts on an annual basis and the scheduling of some of the annual series of political broadcasts will be arranged by the respective parties with the Authority which will communicate the arrangements to the licensees.
- 11.14 In terms of clause 13(5) of the Broadcasting Act, licensees will provide the Authority, free of charge, with the facilities mentioned above for the purpose referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

11.15 Material of Maltese Origin and Performance

Applicants must satisfy the Authority that a proper proportion of the programmes will be of Maltese origin and Maltese performance and that a reasonable part of such programmes is in the Maltese language. The Authority will expect that not less than 75 per cent of broadcast material will be of local origin. This figure relates to programme time including advertising content. A suitable proportion of these programmes must be in the Maltese language and broadcast during suitable listening times.

In this connection, attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 13 of the Act and to the Authority's discretionary powers thereunder.

12. *Assessing Applications – Other Matters*

- 12.1 The Authority will need to satisfy itself that an applicant is a fit and proper organisation to hold a licence. The assessment will also focus on whether the service proposed by the applicant complies with the programming requirements set out in paragraphs 11.1 to 11.15 above.
- 12.2 The Authority's assessment will be based in the first instance upon the written information supplied by the applicant in response to the questions set out in the document marked Annex "D". However, at any time after receiving an application and before making an award, the Authority may require an applicant to furnish additional information relating to his application. A request for further information will normally be made in writing and, unless otherwise indicated, the response from the applicant should also be in writing.
- 12.3 In addition to the written information, the Authority may seek a meeting with an applicant in order to require clarification on aspects of the application. An indication will be given in writing of the issues to be covered at such meetings which may also be called or attended by experts appointed by the Authority for specific tasks. Minutes will be taken by the Authority during these meetings.
- 12.4 An applicant will be required to provide as part of his response to the questions in Annex "D" of Part III information on his projected financial position and on his staffing plans. The Authority will treat this information in confidence but this information will be available for scrutiny by experts who may be appointed by the Authority for the specific purpose of helping it to assess the application.
- 12.5 If it emerges during the consideration of an application that any information supplied to the Authority by applicant is false in any material particular, or that he has withheld material information, the Authority may reject the application.
- 12.6 As soon as it is reasonably practicable after making its awards, the Authority will publish a list of applicants to whom a licence has been awarded together with a list of every other applicant.

13. *Grant and Commencement of Licences*

- 13.1 The Authority will expect applicants to move quickly after the award of licences towards a definite operation date. The term of the licence will commence from its date of issue. The commencement

of the service shall not be later than six months after the issue of the licence.

- 13.2 If at any time between the grant of the licence and the commencement of the service, the licensee indicates to the Authority that he does not intend to provide the service in question, or if broadcasting operations have not commenced within the period stated in the immediately preceding paragraph, the Authority will serve a notice on that applicant revoking the licence as from date of the notice.

PART III

INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM APPLICANTS

14. *General*

- 14.1 The information which is required by the Authority is attached to this part of the invitation to apply. The form adopted for this purpose is a reproduction of part "A" of the Fourth Schedule to the Broadcasting Act, 1991.
- 14.2 The Authority wishes to leave applicants free to supplement the information asked for and to provide background details as appropriate. Supporting detail should be provided in the form of additional notes associated with the answers to each question.
- 14.3 The Authority's decision on applications will be taken on the basis of responses to these questions. An application will only be allowed to be changed after the closing date in the most exceptional circumstances and then only in relation to questions of fact.
- 14.4 Unless so requested by it, the Authority will not accept any form of recorded presentation of programme ideas or other similar material which applicants might seek to supply. Apart from increasing cost, the Authority believes that information in this form would add little of material value to the information which must be assembled and analysed in order to assess applications.

15. ***Programming***

- 15.1 Information is required on the applicant's intentions in relation to programming. This is not intended to draw the Authority into any degree of involvement with applicant's plans for scheduling programme services. The purpose is rather to provide that programming which is calculated to appeal to particular tastes will be broadcast at times when the audience at which it is aimed is listening.

16. ***Technical Matters***

- 16.1 On questions related to technical quality and reliability, applicants are expected to confirm that broadcast quality equipment will be used and that adequate operational and staffing arrangements will be in place. Information on applicant's plans for technical development will help the Authority to assess how well an applicant might maintain higher technical quality in a changing technological environment.

17. ***Ascertaining Listeners' Tastes and Interests***

- 17.1 The applicant should state how he would monitor the reactions of listeners in order to check whether requirements in the Act and the codes were being satisfied.

18. ***Financial Information***

- 18.1 In the Authority's view the question of economic potential and viability of applicant is fundamentally related to financial resources which might be available to sustain the proposed service. The following financial information will, therefore, have to be provided:

- Profit and loss projections – first year per quarter.
- Cash flow projections – first year per quarter.
- Projected balance sheets – for three years.

besides other information listed in question 7 of Annex "D".

- 18.2 Full details of existing or proposed shareholders should be given as follows:

- all shares held;
- distinguish between voting shares, non-voting shares and loan stock;
- all voting shareholders and holders of 5% or more of non-voting shares and loan stock should be named; where those holdings are in the names of trustees or nominees, the beneficial owners should be named;
- where a company will have a substantial interest in the applicant company, details should be given of its directors and main shareholders, and of its activities (a substantial interest for this purpose may be taken as 10% or more); and
- for information purposes, details of the other interests of the applicant group and of any company or person with a holding of 5% or more of any class of share or loan capital. The details should be given under the broad classifications, showing for each heading the extent of the interest owed as shown in question 10 of Annex “D”.

19. ***Compliance***

- 19.1 The applicant should outline the arrangements he proposes to make for compliance with Programme, Advertising, Sponsorship, Technical Performance and other codes and any directives given by the Authority with particular reference to the way these arrangements will feature in the organisational structure and how responsibility for compliance will be attributed to senior personnel. The procedure applicant would adopt for handling complaints from the public is also required.

20. ***Readiness Date***

- 20.1 The commencement date for the service should be given.

Notes of Guidance for Applicants for Licences for Community Radio Services

PART I APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. *Introduction*

- 1.1 These notes of guidance refer to the category of radio service defined in the Broadcasting Act 1991 as “a radio service designed to cater for the needs of a particular community or locality and having a limited range of reception.”
- 1.2 The aim of this document is to indicate to prospective applicants for Broadcasting Authority Community Radio Service Licences, the main statutory requirements and licence conditions that need to be met. It includes an application form which is attached at Appendix I.
- 1.3 This document is being provided solely for the purpose of assisting applicants who are advised to be familiar with the statutory obligations set out in the Broadcasting Act, 1991. The Broadcasting Authority accepts no responsibility for any applicant who, for any reason whatsoever, fails to comply with the procedures laid down by the Act and this document.
- 1.4 The general objective of the Broadcasting Authority in licensing Community Radio Services is set out in paragraph 10 of the National Broadcasting Plan: “To further extend pluralism and the right of access, community broadcasting is to be allowed and encouraged.”
- 1.5 No community radio service licensee will have an exclusive right to provide a service in a given area or locality.

2. *Advertisement of Licence*

- 2.1 Applications for Community Radio Services will be called for by means of advertisements in the press and on the broadcasting media. Groups and individuals who have previously submitted applications to the Authority, registering their interest in applying for a licence, should automatically receive notification from the Authority of the licence advertisement.

3. *Duration of Licence*

- 3.1 A licence for a Community Radio Service will normally be offered for a term of four years from date of issue of the licence. The Authority may grant a licensee a further licence upon the expiry of the original licence, only if it appears to the Authority that a fresh call for applications would not serve to broaden the range of programmes available.
- 3.2 A licence for a Community Radio Service may also be applied for and issued in connection with a one-off event.

4. *Application Procedure*

- 4.1 Applications for licences for Community Radio Services may be submitted to the Broadcasting Authority at any time and not only in response to public advertisements. Copies of the application form at Appendix I may be obtained from the offices of the Broadcasting Authority, National Road, Blata l-Bajda. (Tel: 247908).
- 4.2 Applications must be typed in Maltese or in English. Applicants must answer all questions set out in the application form. Ten copies of the application form should be provided; photocopies of good quality will be acceptable.
- 4.3 The Authority reserves the right to ask for supplementary information subsequently; if so, this will be specifically requested.
- 4.4 Applications must be addressed to the Chief Executive of the Broadcasting Authority.
- 4.5 Each application for a community sound broadcasting licence (including for one-off events) must be accompanied by an application fee of Lm50 as provided for in Section D of the Fourth Schedule to the Broadcasting Act. The application fee will not be refundable in any circumstances.

- 4.6 Submission of an application will be taken as evidence of willingness to accept a licence, if offered, on the terms indicated.

5. *Publication of List of Applicants*

- 5.1 From time to time, the Broadcasting Authority will announce the number of applications received, and will publish the name of the company or individual in whose name the application is submitted.

6. *Assessment of Applications*

- 6.1 The assessment of applications for a licence will be based mainly upon the proposals presented in the completed application form. In the course of assessing applications, both from the programming and technical aspects, the Officers of the Authority or of the Wireless Telegraphy Branch headed by the Chief Inspector of Wireless Telegraphy, may seek clarification of proposals or aspects of these proposals. This will usually be done either through correspondence or through questioning applicants by telephone.
- 6.2 The Authority will require applicants to specify the nature of the proposed service to be provided.
- 6.3 The Authority will need to be satisfied that applicants fully comply with statutory provisions regarding ownership and effective control of the Community Radio Service. Section 10 (4) of the Act lays down that a broadcasting licence for a community radio service may only be awarded to a partnership regularly constituted in Malta which is wholly owned by Maltese citizens ordinarily resident in Malta or to individuals who are Maltese citizens ordinarily resident in Malta.

PART II PROGRAMMING

7. *Type of Programme service*

- 7.1 The type of service proposed is entirely a matter for applicant to decide on, bearing in mind the tastes and interests of the people living

in the area selected for community radio coverage. Applicants should endeavour to produce the service with imagination and an understanding of the audience needs.

8 *Statutory Programme Requirements*

- 8.1 In preparing their proposals, applicants should also be aware of the various statutory requirements concerning programming on community radio services, notably that:
- (a) nothing may be included in programmes which offends against good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling;
 - (b) the views and expressions of the applicant or of particular persons or bodies on religious matters or on matters of political or industrial controversy or current public policy must not predominate (vide para.9);
 - (c) taking the various broadcasting licensees and contractors, together as a whole, due impartiality must be preserved on matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy (vide para.9);
 - (d) programmes, including advertisements, must not include any technique which exploits the possibility of conveying a message to, or otherwise influencing the minds of, persons listening to the programmes without their being aware, or fully aware, of what has been done.

9. *News and Current Affairs*

- 9.1 Community radio licensees are precluded from transmitting news and current affairs programmes except of a community nature.
- 9.2 In this case, attention should be given by applicants to ways of ensuring credibility, accuracy and reliability. There must be clear arrangements for ensuring that the radio service observes the requirements for due impartiality laid down in section 13 of the Broadcasting Act, 1991.

10. *Advertising and Sponsorship*

10.1 Applicants should familiarise themselves with section 19 and with the rules laid down in the Third Schedule of the Broadcasting Act. In particular they should note the following:

- (a) the service must not include any advertisement which is of a political nature nor any advertisement which has any relation to any industrial dispute;
- (b) in the acceptance of advertisements, there must be no unreasonable discrimination either against or in favour of any particular advertiser;
- (c) categories of prohibited advertisers are not permitted to sponsor programmes.

10.2 Subject to the requirements of the applicable paragraphs of the Third Schedule of the Act and of any code issued by the Authority from time to time, each community radio service is entirely free to decide the amount, frequency and distribution of advertising airtime.

11. *Hours of Broadcasting*

11.1 Applicants are free to suggest the hours during which they wish to broadcast provided they utilise their allocated frequency for not less than 20 hours per week.

12. *Monitoring Arrangements*

12.1 Paragraph 2 (c) of the First Schedule of the Broadcasting Act requires each licensee to make a recording of all output transmitted and to retain recordings for a period of 90 days. The licensee must at its own expense make these recordings available to the Broadcasting Authority, or to a Court of Law, for monitoring purposes and for the investigation of complaints.

PART III

GENERAL INFORMATION

13. *Licence Fees*

- 13.1 Licence fees payable to the Broadcasting Authority for community sound broadcasting services will be Lm150 per annum and Lm50 per one-off event.
- 13.2 The Broadcasting Authority licence fee for a community radio service and for one-off events will become payable to the Authority on the date of issue of the licence.

14. *Ownership and Control*

- 14.1 Paragraph 6.3 of this document refers to the legal provisions on ownership and control of broadcasting services. The Authority will require confirmation on an annual basis that applicant, if granted a licence, remains qualified to hold such licence.
- 14.2 The Authority reserves the right to revoke a licence after it has been granted if changes take place which the nature or characteristics of the licensee, or in the persons having control over or interest in the licence, such that the Authority would not have granted the licence in the first place had this been so. Prompt notification to the Authority of any change in ownership of shares in the company holding the licence will be required.
- 14.3 No organisation, person or company may own, control, or be editorially responsible for more than one broadcasting service.
- 14.4 Broadcasting licences shall not be assigned and the control of, or shares in the ownership of a partnership to which a broadcasting licence is granted may not be transferred either in whole or in part without the previous written consent of the Authority.

15. *Supply of Information*

- 15.1 The licence will contain conditions requiring the licensee to furnish the Broadcasting Authority with such information as it may require

for the purpose of exercising the functions assigned to it under the Broadcasting Act, 1991.

- 15.2 Licensee shall before the 15th January of each calendar year during the licence period, declare in writing to the Authority his intention to carry on providing broadcasting services on the frequency specified in his licence for another year.

16. ***Directions by the Authority***

- 16.1 The Authority may give to any person providing broadcasting services such directions as it may deem necessary or expedient for the proper exercise of the functions described in section 119 of the Constitution and for the proper discharge of any duty or function referred to in the Broadcasting Act, 1991.

17. ***Station Identification***

- 17.1 Each community radio service's on-air identification will be subject to the approval of the Authority. However, it is the responsibility of the licensee to check the legal implications of using a particular station name or identification.

18. ***Sanctions***

The Authority is empowered to apply specific penalties in respect of breaches of licence conditions. These sanctions include the power to direct a licensee to broadcast a correction or an apology, to impose financial penalties, to shorten the licence period and to revoke the licence.

PART IV

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

19. ***Transmission Provision***

- 19.1 A licensee will be responsible for its own transmission facilities and is free to decide on the supply, construction and maintenance of its

transmission system and equipment. However, in order to perform its statutory responsibilities with regard to frequency spectrum management, the Authority has adopted the use of certain basic technical conditions relating to the establishment and operation of a VHF/FM station for a community sound broadcasting radio service in the frequency band 87.5 to 108 MHz. These conditions which will form part of the licence are at Appendix II.

20. ***Studios and Links***

- 20.1 The licensee will be responsible for providing studios, any outside broadcasting facilities and equipment, links between these and the studio and links to transmission equipment.
- 20.2 The Authority does not lay down any minimum standards or requirements relating to studio facilities, studio equipment or acoustical treatment. The Authority considers that it should be left entirely to applicants to decide what standards of studio quality would be appropriate for the service envisaged.

21. ***Choice of Transmitter Site***

- 21.1 Applicants should identify the transmitter site from which they propose to provide their service and make an estimate of the geographical coverage which it is expected to achieve from this site. A survey map of the anticipated coverage area will be required by the Authority.

22. ***Frequency Clearance***

- 22.1 The transmitter location, aerial height and characteristics and effective radiated power will be subject to final approval by the Authority. Licensee must not:
- (a) make use of any of the frequencies allocated to Malta in terms of international agreements;
 - (b) interfere with any national broadcasting station received in Malta whether originating from Malta or from abroad; and
 - (c) interfere with any of the nationwide radio services.

- 22.2 The Authority reserves the right to seek any adjustment of the power level and aerial characteristics which may be necessary to limit the range of reception to the radius of 2.5 kilometres from the point of transmission.
- 22.3 To ensure compliance, transmission arrangements must be tested by qualified Authority or Authority commissioned personnel who must have access to the equipment throughout the licence period for further tests or other requirements as necessary.

Licence for Community Radio Services Application Form

SECTION I: GENERAL

1. COVERAGE AREA

Describe locality intended for coverage and provide survey map indicating expected coverage area extending up to a radius of 2.5 Kilometres from point of transmission.

2. PROPOSED STATION NAME

Name by which applicant wishes his station to be known.

3. APPLICANT

A. If individual:

Name:

I.D. No.:

Address:

Telephone:

B. If applicant is a company:

Name of Company:

Address:

Telephone:

Board of Directors:

Provide the following details in respect of the Chairman and each director individually:

- Name
- Home Address
- I.D. No.
- Age
- Nationality

4. STAFFING

Give details of any role to be played by voluntary or paid helpers in the running of the station.

(include additional sheets if necessary)

SECTION II: PROGRAMMING

5. PROPOSED PROGRAMME SERVICE

Provide an outline of the proposed service. The successful applicant will be free to vary this outline provided the general approach is maintained.

6. HOURS OF BROADCASTING

During which hours of the day is it intended to broadcast?

7. NEWS

Is it planned to broadcast community news?

YES/NO

If yes, elaborate on the proposed news services, regular content and broadcast times.

8. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Are there any organisations, individuals, etc. who have lent support to this application?

9. ADVERTISING OR OTHER REVENUE

What arrangements are envisaged to finance the proposed programme service?

SECTION III: TECHNICAL

10. TRANSMISSION SITE

Where is it proposed to locate the transmitter and the aerial? Please provide any further technical information about transmission proposals that may be relevant.

11. STUDIO LOCATION

Where is the proposed studio location? If premises are already available, please give actual address and present use of property.

12. READINESS DATE

What is the expected date for the start of transmission?

13. CONCLUDING DECLARATION

Applicants are required to conclude their submission with the following declaration:

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the statements made in this application are correct. I understand that the Broadcasting Authority reserves the right to revoke the licence if at any time any statement made is found to be false.

Signed _____
Applicant

Date _____

Broadcasting Authority

Revenue and Expenditure Estimates

For the year ending 31 December 1992

In terms of Section 27 of the
Broadcasting Act, 1991

CONTENTS	Page
Revenue and expenditure estimates	98
Projected funds flow statement	99
Schedules of estimates	100
Capital expenditure budget	101
Reserve fund	102

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

For the year ending 31 December 1992

In terms of Section 27 of the Broadcasting Act, 1991

	Page	Estimates 1992 Lm	Revised Estimates 1991 Lm	Actual 1990 Lm
INCOME	100	293,500	131,164	81,089
EXPENSES	100	212,192	110,535	80,929
DEPRECIATION		18,120	2,852	1,774
		230,312	113,387	82,703
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		Lm63,188	Lm17,777	Lm(1,614)

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

PROJECTED FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ending 31 December 1992

	Estimates 1992 Lm	Revised Estimates 1991 Lm	Actual 1990 Lm
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	63,188	17,777	(1,614)
Add back			
Item not involving the movement of funds:			
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	18,120	2,852	1,774
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
FUNDS GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS	81,308	20,629	160
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Capital expenditure	71,200	13,724	1,886
Reserve fund	10,000	6,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL APPLICATION OF FUNDS	81,200	19,724	1,886
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET SOURCE/(APPLICATION) OF FUNDS	Lm108	Lm905	Lm(1,726)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

SCHEDULES OF ESTIMATES

For the year ending 31 December 1992

1. INCOME

	1992	1991	1990
	Lm	Lm	Lm
Government contribution	250,000	120,000	80,000
Licence fees	20,000	751	751
Application fees	–	10,000	–
Cable TV operator	15,000	–	–
Ground rents	7,500	13	13
Bank interest	1,000	400	325
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
– to page 98	Lm 293,500		81,089
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

2. EXPENDITURE

	1992	1991	1990
	Lm	Lm	Lm
Operating expenses			
Administration department	108,994	98,779	73,848
Production department	24,396	10,336	7,081
Monitoring department	29,916	1,420	–
Technical department	45,886	–	–
Studio Training Centre	3,000	–	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
– to page 98	Lm 212,192	110,535	80,929
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

The Authority is proposing the following capital expenditure:

	Lm
<i>Monitoring Department</i>	
Three open reel play back recorders, three wireless receiving sets and one digital recorder	7,000
Office furniture and equipment	3,000
	<hr/> 10,000 <hr/>
<i>Studio Training Centre</i>	
Fully equipped training studio complete with master control room	53,000
	<hr/>
<i>Administration Department</i>	
Office furniture and equipment	3,200
Motor vehicle	5,000
	<hr/> 8,200 <hr/>
TOTAL PROPOSED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	Lm71,200 <hr/>

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

RESERVE FUND

Reserve Fund

Lm10,000

Section 26 of the Broadcasting Act 1991 empowers the Authority to establish, keep and maintain a reserve fund and invest in it from time to time.

The Authority feels that it is prudent to invest Lm10,000 during 1992 so that it can meet future additional capital expenditure.

***Party
Political Broadcasts
1991 - 1992 Series***

**PROCEDURE GOVERNING
PARTY POLITICAL BROADCASTS
1991 - 1992 SERIES**

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. This series of Party Political Broadcasts consists of two schemes:
- Scheme "A" – Press Conference, Debates,
Party Productions and interviews
- Scheme "B" – Political Spots.
- 1.2. All programmes and spots are transmitted under the auspices of the Broadcasting Authority.
- 1.3. Scheme "A" in this series of Party Political Broadcasts is made up of 20 programmes which will be transmitted as shown in the attached calendar at Appendix I. Scheme "B" will be made up of 36 political spots to be broadcast as shown in Appendix II.
- 1.4. If a broadcast/spot is not used by a party on its scheduled transmission date, that broadcast/spot will be forfeited. An appropriate announcement will be made in the case of a forfeited programme.
- 1.5. This series covers the 8-month period commencing on 1 November 1991.

- 1.6 Political Party representatives, and all those taking part in this series, must abide by the provisions of the law, and rules issued by the Authority from time to time and any order or directive given by the presiding Chairman. The Authority's decision on any points which may arise in connection with these transmissions will be final.
- 1.7 Neither the Broadcasting Authority nor Public Broadcasting Services Ltd, or its Contractor, the TeleMalta Corporation (Xandir Malta Division) will accept any responsibility for any interference with or breakdown of the television or radio services and cannot bind themselves to repeat any broadcast that suffers as a result of such interference or breakdown.
- 1.8 The Authority reserves the right to suspend indefinitely or for such time as it will consider necessary, any person from participating in any of the programmes in the event that such person shall have, in the Authority's view, committed a serious breach of the rules, particularly rule 1.6.
- 1.9 All programmes and spots in this series are transmitted on television. Press Conferences, Debates and the Interview programmes are also broadcast on Radio Malta I.
- 1.10 Provided adequate notice is given in connection with programmes in Scheme "A", the Authority will issue a press hand-out and advance publicity on the broadcasting media will also be arranged.
- 1.11 In all programmes under Scheme "A", where the Authority requires advance information about speakers and the choice of subject, the following arrangements will apply: The Party whose turn it is to choose the subject and speaker/s will supply the required information in writing to the Authority by not later than noon on Monday preceding the day of broadcast. Failure to comply with this rule will disrupt arrangements and may entail the forfeiture of the broadcast in which case an appropriate announcement will be made. The Authority will inform the other Party in writing about the subject and speaker/s selected not later than the following day (office hours).
- 1.12 Programmes in Scheme "A" are transmitted from Xandir Malta Studios after pre-recording which takes place in the presence of the Authority's Legal Adviser. Participants are to be at the Studios not later than half an hour before recording time. Unless otherwise directed by the Authority, recording will take place at 10.00 a.m. sharp on the day of broadcast. Only the participants and the Party Broadcasting Officer or his representative may attend the checking of the play-back. A programme will be re-recorded only if the Authority so decides.

- 1.13 Political parties participating in this series may request a tape recording of any political programme after the programme has been broadcast. In such cases, the tape is to be provided by the requesting party. A period of seven days from the date of the broadcast is allowed for such requests.
- 1.14 In selecting a subject for those programmes which require one, parties should be guided by the need to inform and educate public opinion on specific matters. Slogans will not be accepted and the choice of titles must be consistent with the spirit of this rule.
- 1.15 This series of Party Political Broadcasts will automatically come to an end on the date Parliament is dissolved.

SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS

2. **PRESS CONFERENCES – “L-ISTAMPA TISTAQSI”**
- 2.1 This section of Scheme “A” consists of four programmes: two of 60 minutes each allocated to the Nationalist Party and one of 50 minutes and one of 60 minutes allocated to the Malta Labour Party.
- 2.2 Press Conferences are meant to be informative discussions in which a party representative answers questions put to him in the general public interest by the Press.
- 2.3 Questions should be brief and relevant and journalists will be allowed supplementary and counter questions. The party spokesman should also be brief and to the point.
- 2.4 The presiding Chairman nominated by the Broadcasting Authority has been delegated full discretionary powers to regulate the programme fairly and firmly.
- 2.5 After the Chairman’s introductory remarks, the party spokesman will make a short statement after which the Chairman will invite questions.

- 2.6 The spokesman for the party concerned has the option to make a concluding statement.
- 2.7 The following time schedule will regulate programmes in this section:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Chairman's Introduction | 1 min |
| Party spokesman's opening statement | 3 mins |
| Question Time | 52/42 mins.* |
| Party spokesman's summing up | 3 mins. |
| Chairman's closing | 1 min. |
- 2.8 There will be three rounds of questioning as follows:
- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1st round: | 1 minute for question and 4 minutes for reply |
| 2nd round | 1 minute for question and 4 minutes for reply |
| 3rd round | 30 seconds/1minute* for question and 2.5/3* minutes for reply |
- 2.9 Press representation will be regulated in accordance with the arrangements shown in Appendix III.
- 2.10 The Authority reserves the right to review Press representation from time to time.
- 2.11 The order in which journalists will participate will be determined by ballot.

DEBATES

- 3.1 The present series of Debates is made up of 6 programmes: four of 60 minutes, each with four participants and two of 40 minutes, each with two participants. Programmes are shared equally between the Nationalist Party and the Malta Labour Party with each party exercising the option on when, from the fixed list of debate dates, it wants to have the 40 minute debate.
- 3.2 The party which selects the subject will open and wind up the Debate.
- 3.3 All Debates in this series will be under the charge of a Chairman nominated by the Authority.

*Applicable to 50 minutes Press Conference

- 3.4 The Chairman should ensure that clarity prevails at all times and that an equal opportunity is presented to both sides. The Chairman retains full discretionary powers to act as necessary to ensure that the interests of viewers and listeners are safeguarded.

- 3.5 Debates will be conducted on the following lines:

	<i>60-minute Debate</i>
Chairman's Introduction	1 min.
<i>1st round:</i>	
First Speaker (party A)	8 mins.
Second Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
Third Speaker (Party A)	7 mins.
Fourth Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
<i>2nd round:</i>	
First Speaker (Party A)	7 mins.
Second Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
Third Speaker (Party B)	7 mins.
Fourth Speaker (Party A)	8 mins.
Chairman's Closing	1 min.

	<i>40-minute Debate</i>
Chairman's Introduction	1 min.
Speaker (Party A)	5 mins.
Speaker (Party B)	6 mins.
Speaker (Party A)	5 mins.
Speaker (Party B)	6 mins.
Speaker (Party A)	5 mins.
Speaker (Party B)	6 mins.
Speaker (Party A)	5 mins.
Chairman's Closing	1 min.

- 3.6 All those taking part in Debates must strictly follow the Chairman's instructions whose decision in the proper conduct of the debate will be final.

4. **PARTY PRODUCTIONS**

- 4.1 The programmes in this section may, at the parties' discretion, vary from the straight talk to an elaborate television production.
- 4.2 Party Productions in this scheme consist of six programmes allocated to the Nationalist Party, the Malta Labour Party and Alternattiva Demokratika as follows:

*Nationalist Party**Malta Labour
Party**Alternattiva
Demokratika*

3 progs. of 10
mins. each

2 progs. of
10 mins. each

1 prog. of
10 mins.

- 4.3 The Authority must be informed at least a week before transmission date about the nature of the broadcast, i.e. whether it is a straight talk, an interview, a debate or a production on tape or film.
- 4.4 The Authority and Xandir Malta will render no assistance in filming, in taking of stills, or in putting graphic material together. The production must be of entirely Maltese origin and all programmed material must comply with the Station's technical requirements and be provided by the parties themselves. A VHS copy is to be delivered to the Authority for vetting at least 48 hours before the programme is due for recording.
- 4.5 If a party opts to utilise one of its allotted programmes in this section in the form of a straight talk, an interview or a debate, such a programme can be recorded at the Xandir Malta studios. However such programmes will not be allowed to include visual material except for the opening and closing film or slide or caption which will indicate the originators of the party production.
- 4.6 Programmes in this category will be broadcast on television only. A bottom-frame caption with the words "Xandira Politika" will be shown 3 times during transmission.

5. **INTERVIEW PROGRAMMES**

- 5.1 This section consists of four programmes of 20 minutes each allocated equally to the Nationalist Party and to the Malta Labour Party.
- 5.2 Each programme will consist of the respective party spokesman, and of an interviewer nominated by the opposing party.
- 5.3 The scope of these programmes is to elicit information in the general public interest and the interview must be conducted in this spirit.
- 5.4 No visual material will be allowed during these programmes.

6. POLITICAL SPOTS

6.1 Scheme "B" in this series of Party Political Broadcasts consists of 36 political spots. These spots should be used to promote the image, ideals and ideas of the party and should be presented in a positive way.

6.2 Political spots will be allocated to the parties as follows:

N.P.

M.L.P.

A.D.

17 x 1 min.

16 x 1 min.

1 x 30 sec.

1 x 30 sec.

1 x 30sec.

6.3 Political Spots will be scheduled during th January/March 1992 period and will be transmitted as shown in Appendix II.

6.4 Political Spots will be provided by the parties themselves and video tape recordings must comply with the Station's technical requirements. A VHS copy is to be delivered to the Authority for vetting at least two working days before the scheduled day of transmission.

6.5 This series of spots will be broadcast on television only.

6.6 Each Spot shall include a bottom frame caption with the words "spot politiku mill (party name)". This caption will be shown throughout.

***Calendar of Party Political Broadcasts
1991 - 1992 Series***

<i>Date</i>			<i>Programme</i>	<i>Party</i>
1991	November	1	Debate	Nationalist Party
	November	8	Debate	Malta Labour Party
	November	22	Press Conference	Malta Labour Party
	November	29	Press Conference	Nationalist Party
1992	January	10	Party Production	Nationalist Party
	January	17	Party Production	Malta Labour Party
	January	31	Interview Programme	Malta Labour Party
	February	7	Interview Programme	Nationalist Party
	February	21	Programme Production	Alternattiva Demokratika
	March	6	Debate	Malta Labour Party
	March	13	Debate	Nationalist Party
	March	27	Press Conference	Nationalist Party
	April	3	Press Conference	Malta Labour Party
	May	8	Party Production	Malta Labour Party
	May	15	Party Production	Nationalist Party
	May	29	Interview Programme	Nationalist Party
	June	5	Interview Programme	Malta Labour Party
	June	19	Debate	Nationalist Party
	June	26	Debate	Malta Labour Party
	July	3	Party Production	Nationalist Party

Programmes are transmitted on Fridays at 9 p.m.

***Calendar of Political Spots
January - March 1992***

January

13 NP	20 MLP	27 NP
14 MLP	21 NP	28 MLP
15 NP	22 MLP	29 NP
16 MLP	23 NP	30 MLP

February

3 NP	–	17 NP	24 MLP
4 MLP	11 NP	18 MLP	25 NP
5 NP	12 MLP	19 NP	26 MLP
6 MLP	13 NP	20 MLP	27 NP

March

2 NP	9 MLP	16 AD
3 MLP	10 NP	
4 NP	11 MLP	
5 MLP	12 NP	

Political spots will be slotted immediately before “Tini Minuta” or the news Commentary broadcast on TVM.

Press Representation at Press Conferences

1. **Programme due on 22nd November 1991**
(Subject chosen by the Malta Labour Party)

1. *In-Nazzjon Tagħna*
2. *Il-Mument*
3. The Times
4. *Alternattiva*

2. **Programme due on 29th November 1991**
(Subject chosen by the Nationalist Party)

1. *Il-Helsien*
2. *L-Orizzont*
3. The Times
4. *Alternattiva*

3. **Programme due on 27th March 1992**
(Subject chosen by the Nationalist Party)

1. *Il-Helsien*
2. *It-Torċa*
3. *Il-Ġens*
4. Sunday Times

4. ***Programme due on 3rd April 1992**
(Subject chosen by the Malta Labour Party)

1. *In-Nazzjon Tagħna*
2. Sunday Times
3. *Il-Ġens*

* This programme was of 50 minutes duration.

***List of Party Political Broadcasts transmitted during
1991 together with Participants and Subjects
selected by the Parties***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Subject</i>
11.1.91	Nationalist Party Production	
1.2.91	Debate with subject chosen by the Nationalist Party: The Hon. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici Mr Joe Saliba The Hon. Joe Brincat Mr Manwel Cuschieri	<i>Il-Politika ta' Ftehim</i>
8.2.91	Debate with subject chosen by the Malta Labour Party: The Hon. Alex Sciberras Trigona The Hon. Leo Brincat The Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech Mr Carmel Cacopardo	<i>Il-Poplu Favur il-Paċi u n-Newtralità</i>
22.2.91	Nationalist Party Production	
1.3.91	Malta Labour Party Production	
12.4.91	Press Conference with subject chosen by Malta Labour Party: <i>Chairman:</i> Tonio Portuguese The Hon. Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici <i>Press:</i> Joe Mikalleg Mario Schiavone Saviour Balzan Ivan Fenech	<i>It-Twegiba tal-Labour</i>

- 19.4.91 Conference with subject chosen
by the Nationalist Party: *Solidarjetà: Dejjem u
Kullimkien*
- Chairman:* Prof. E. Scicluna
The Hon. Eddie Fenech Adami
Press: Evarist Bartolo
Joe Vella
Tonio Bonello
Laurence Grech
- 3.5.91 Debate with subject chosen
by The Malta Labour Party: *Il-Weghdiet li l-Partit
Nazzjonalista ma
Żammx*
- The Hon. Alfred Sant
Dr. Reno Borg
The Hon. Michael Falzon
Mr Jesmond Mugliett
- 10.5.91 Debate with subject chosen by
the Nationalist Party: *Illum Int Qed Tghix
Ahjar*
- The Hon. G. Bonello du Puis
Dr. Josef Bonnici
The Hon. Lino Spiteri
Mrs Helena Dalli
- 24.5.91 Interview with The Hon.
Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici
M.L.P. Leader
- 31.5.91 Interview with The Hon.
Eddie Fenech Adami
N.P. Leader
- 14.6.91 Alternattiva Demokratika
Party Production taking the
form of a Debate: *Iż-Żgħażaġh Għalfejn
Xebghu mill-Politika?*
- Chairman:* Arnold Cassola
The Hon. Eddie Fenech Adami
The Hon. Wenzu Mintoff
- 10.7.91 Nationalist Party Annual
General Party Conference
Production

19.9.91	Malta Labour Party Production	
21.10.91	Malta Labour Party Annual General Party Conference Production	
25.10.91	Nationalist Party Production	
1.11.91	Debate with subject chosen by the Nationalist Party: The Hon. John Dalli The Hon. Michael Frendo The Hon. Alfred Sant The Hon. Leo Brincat	<i>Nghixu Dejjem Ahjar</i>
8.11.91	Debate with subject chosen by The Malta Labour Party: The Hon Joe Debono Grech The Hon. J. Attard Montalto The Hon. G. Bonello du Puis The Hon. Frank Portelli	<i>Punt 21 (Il-weghdiet mhux imwettqa)</i>
22.11.91	Press Conference with subject chosen by Malta Labour Party: The Hon. K. Mifsud Bonnici <i>Press:</i> Mario Schiavone Joe Mikallef Ray Bugeja Stephen Cachia	<i>L-Ahjar Rabtiet ma' l-Ewropa</i>
29.11.91	Press Conference with subject chosen by the Nationalist Party: The Hon. E. Fenech Adami <i>Press:</i> Evarist Bartolo Felix Agius Roger Mifsud Saviour Balzan	(No Specific Subject)

Radio and television licence fees 1991

EBU active members

Country	Annual fees in national currencies *			Type of set and methods of assessment
	Seperate radio licences	Seperate television licences	Combined radio and television licences	
Algeria				Each electricity consumer pays a fee based on his electricity bill
Austria a (Schilling)	701 (87)p.h. b	2 286 (282)p.h	2 408 (297)p.h.	Valve or transistor set, private or public use Black and white or colour set, private or public use Black and white or colour set, private or public use
Belgium (France)	924 (39)p.h.	4 440 (187)p.h. 6 395 (269)p.h.		Car set only Black and white set, private use Colour set, private use
Cyprus				Each electricity consumer pays a fee based on his electricity bill
Denmark (Crown)	218 (49)p.h. 109 (25)p.s.		954 (216)p.h. 477 (108)p.s. 1 484 (336)p.h. 742 (168)p.s.	Valve or transistor set, private use Valve or transistor set, public use Black and white set, private use Black and white set, public use Colour set, private use Colour set, public use
Egypt				Each electricity consumer pays a fee based on his electricity bill
Finland c (Markka)		468 (168)p.h. 828 (298)p.h.		No licence for radio Black and white set, private use Colour set, private use
France (Franc)		364 (93)p.h. 1 456 (371)p.s. 566 (144)p.h. 2 264(577)p.s.		No licence for radio Black and white set, private use Black and white set, public use Colour set, private use Colour set, public use
Germany (FR) (Mark)	72 (63)p.h.		228 (201)p.h.	Valve or transistor set, private or public use, additional licence for car set for professional use Black and white or colour set, private or public use

Country	Annual fees in national currencies *			Type of set and methods of assessment
	Seperate radio licences	Seperate television licences	Combined radio and television licences	
Greece				Each electricity consumer pays a fee based on his electricity bill
Iceland a (Crown)	6 443 (158)p.h.	17 400 (426)p.h. 19 330 (474)p.h.		Valve or transistor set, private use Black and white set, private use Colour set, private use
Ireland (Irish pound)		44 (102)p.h. 62 (144)p.h.		No licence for radio Black and white set, private or public use Colour set, private or public use
Israel d (Shekel)	65 (33)		190 (95)p.h.	Car set only Black and white or colour set, private use
Italy (Lira)	3 540 (4)p.s.		119 995(139)p.s. 125 000(145)p.s	Valve or transistor set, private use Black and white set, private use Colour set, private use
Jordan e (Dinar)		12 (22)p.h.		No licence for radio Black and white or colour set, private use
Lebanon				No licence or fee
Libya				No licence or fee
Luxembourg				No licence or fee
Malta (Pound)		6 (26)p.h. 15 (66)p.s.		No licence for radio Black and white set, private or public use Colour set, private or public use Additional licence for car tv set
Monaco				No licence or fee
Morocco				Each electricity consumer pays a fee based on his electricity bill
Netherlands (Florin)	49 (38)p.h.		168 (129)p.h.	Valve or transistor set, private use Black and white or colour set, private use
Norway (Crown)		600 (134)p.h. 1 195 (266)p.h.		No licence for radio Black and white set, private use Colour set, private use

Country	Annual fees in national currencies *			Type of set and methods of assessment
	Seperate radio licences	Seperate television licences	Combined radio and television licences	
Portugal (Escudo)		3 500 (35)p.h.		For radio, each electricity consumer pays a fee based on his electricity bill Black and white or colour set, private use
Spain				No licence or fee
Sweden a (Crown)	-	1 164 (273)p.h.		No licence for radio Black and white or colour set, private or public use
Switzerland (Franc)	118.80p.h. 157.20p.h.	231.60p.h. 307.20p.h.		Valve or transistor set, private use Valve or transistor set, public use Black and white or colour set, private use Black and white or colour set, public use
Tunisia				Each electricity consumer pays a fee based on his electricity bill
Turkey				No licence system
U.K. f (£ Stg.)		25 (64)p.h. 77 (196)p.h.		No licence for radio Black and white set, private use Colour set, private use Additional licence for car tv set
Vatican State				No licence or fee
Yugoslavia (Dinar)	204 to 1 320 (15 to 99)p.h.		1 560 to 1 920 (117 to 144)p.h.	Valve or transistor set, private use Black and white or colour set, private use

© European Broadcasting Union 1991

*Approximate equivalent in Swiss francs in brackets

a As at 31.12.90 b p.h. - per household c As from 1.6.1991 d As at 31.12.1989
p.s. - per set

e As at 31.12.84 f As from April 1991



Broadcasting Authority
Malta

ANNUAL REPORT

1991

30
1961-1991