



YEARS OF SERVICE

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY MALTA

2011

ANNUAL REPORT

Broadcasting Authority, Malta
Annual Report 2011

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Message from the Chairman

As can be seen from the rest of this Annual Report, the year under review was quite an eventful one for the Broadcasting Authority. The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Authority, which is covered in quite some detail in this Annual Report, is an important milestone in its history.

The celebration of this important anniversary gave us an opportunity to communicate with the general public about the work of the Authority. The speech delivered by His Excellency Dr George Abela, President of Malta, during his visit to the Authority's offices on the day of the Anniversary, created a public debate which is still ongoing about the changes in the Constitution which might be necessary to update the composition of the Authority after fifty years of existence.

The personal interest of the President of Malta in the workings of the Authority was further evidenced when His Excellency accepted the Authority's invitation to address the Opening Session of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities which was hosted by the Broadcasting Authority in Malta last November. His contribution was very warmly received by the delegates from nineteen regulatory authorities from Mediterranean countries who attended this Conference.

The Referendum Campaign on the Introduction of Divorce in Malta, as is usual with such events, increased the pressure on both the staff and the Board of the Authority. It is with a great sense of satisfaction that the Authority can look back on this Campaign and say that it executed its constitutional role with diligence and impartiality. Some difficult decisions had to be taken in a completely new scenario for referenda in Malta given that the protagonists in the referendum were not the political parties but the two movements for and against the issue.

In my Review last year, I stated that the Authority was playing a pivotal role in the digital switchover which will see the country switching off its traditional analogue signals as television stations migrate to the digital world. It is my pleasure today to be able to report that through the efforts of all parties involved, including the Broadcasting Authority, the switchover took place seamlessly with hardly any inconvenience caused to the viewing public in Malta. In this regard, Malta is now among those European States which have made the switch over ahead of the deadline imposed by the European Union.

During its thirty-four meetings held during the year under review, the Board heard and decided on no less than forty-eight administrative offences and fourteen complaints. The



Anthony J. Tabone
Chairman

administrative offences covered three television stations, six nationwide radio stations and five community radio stations. The primary aim of the Authority is not to impose fines on broadcasting stations but to ensure that the obligations of these stations arising out of the Broadcasting Act and the Constitution are rigorously observed. The Authority's staff keeps close contact with the broadcasting stations and whenever possible opts to advise the stations on remedial measures rather than take action. I am pleased to say, that there is a wide appreciation for this liaison but unfortunately there are occasions when the Chief Executive would have no option but to issue a charge, which would then be heard and decided upon by the Board of the Authority.

The Broadcasting Authority gives due importance to a healthy relationship with other Regulatory Authorities overseas and strives to keep alive its international contacts. This year, apart from participating actively in one of the annual sessions of the European Platform for Regulatory Authorities, which was held in Brussels, the Authority is occupying the chair of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities. Besides hosting the 2011 Session in Malta, I shall have the privilege of chairing the 2012 Session which will be hosted by the Portuguese Regulatory Authority. We have also supported an initiative taken by the Cypriot Broadcasting Authority (CRTA) together with Portugal to set up a special committee which would bring together all the Broadcasting Authorities of the EU Member States to ensure that the views of the Authorities are taken into account before the Commission decides on any broadcasting matters.

In conclusion, I would like to express my personal appreciation for the hard work put in by all the staff of the Authority during the year, which helped in no small way towards the attainment of the Authority's objectives. I also wish to thank the Chief Executive Officer for his valuable advice and for his diligence in tackling a number of delicate issues which the Authority has to face on an ongoing basis. I am also grateful for the support of the members and secretary of the Board throughout the year.

Chairman and Members of the Broadcasting Authority during 2011



Mr Anthony J. Tabone, Chairman
Dip MRS, MCIM



Mrs Rose Sciberras, Member
B.A (Hons.), L.P.



Dr Peter Fenech, Member
LL.D., M.A.



Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes, Member



Dr Reno Borg, Member
B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D.



Mr Pierre Cassar, Chief Executive
B.A. (Hons.), M.Sc.(Leicester)



Dr Simon Manicolo, Secretary
*B.A., Dip. Not. Pub., Adv. Trib.
Eccel. Melit., LL.D.*

For the complete list of the Authority's Members see Appendix I

Statement from the Chief Executive

The year in review was nothing short of exceptional. Apart from celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Authority operated in a highly controversial political climate during the run-up to the referendum on divorce, played an active role in contributing to a seamless digital switchover for free-to-air television stations and made a contribution to the international field in an even more significant way than usual by assuming the Vice-Presidency of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities.

The Authority has come a long way since its foundation in 1961. Technology has evolved in leaps and bounds and pluralism has allowed various players and multiple platforms to provide different media services to consumers. A stroll through the three floors of the administrative building of the Authority at Hamrun will reveal a portrait picture of every Chairman appointed by Government to head the Authority since 1961. Fifty years later I cannot help but wonder what the early founders of this constitutional body would make of the present media landscape with its complex set-up and equally challenging legislative framework.

Despite its limited budget, the Authority managed to organise a modest, yet successful calendar of events to celebrate this important anniversary in a special way. Created in the late period of colonial rule, this organisation was enshrined in the Constitution and has witnessed key milestones in Malta's history. Despite the ongoing debate on its relevance in modern day society, I still believe that there is a clear consensus that a regulatory approach is now, perhaps, more vital than ever to protect consumers from the potentially harmful effects of broadcast media. Such a trend is still strong in the Western world and the EPRA forum which is held twice a year, bringing together all European broadcasting regulators, attests this.



Pierre Cassar
Chief Executive

Apart from the fiftieth anniversary celebrations and its contribution to international fora, the Authority remains first and foremost committed to monitoring local content to ensure that programming offered is in line with the provisions of the Broadcasting Act. Fortunately, over the past few years, more consumers are becoming aware of their right to file a complaint with the Authority. Although at present the number of complaints filed by viewers and listeners is minimal, the possibility exists that in the not too distant future, the Authority will experience an influx of complaints from members of the public as media literacy increases.

A memorable year would be a fitting description for the year in review. I would like to thank all members of staff who contributed to accomplish the corporate goals of the Authority. My sincere gratitude to the new Chairman Anthony J Tabone and to the members of the Board for their sterling work and support throughout the year. May I also take this opportunity to thank all those who in previous years served on the Board or worked for the Authority. Their contribution, big or small, was significant in shaping the Authority to becoming what it is today.

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1. Review of the Year

by the Chief Executive

1.1 The Broadcasting Authority

As from the beginning of 2011, a new Chairman headed the Board. Three of the Members were reappointed whilst Dr Peter Fenech was granted tenure for the first time. During the year in review, the Authority was composed of:

Chairman: Mr Anthony J Tabone Dip MRS, MCIM
Members: Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D.
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Dr Peter Fenech LL.D., M.A.
Ms Rose Sciberras B.A (Hons.) L.P.

The Authority held a total of 34 meetings during the year.

1.2 Human Resources

Staff complement remained stable during the year in review. The Authority currently has a work force of 32 employees, approximately half of whom are engaged within the Monitoring Department. Dr Marilyn Dimech was employed as a part-time Programme Monitor on an initial six-month fixed contract, which was eventually renewed for a further six months.

The Authority also renewed the contract of its Technical Consultant, Mr Joe Francalanza, who is entrusted with the management, maintenance and other technical requirements of the Gharghur Transmitting Tower.

During the year in review, two employees benefited from a career break. The Authority actively seeks to provide family-friendly measures to its staff and, to this effect, whilst one employee works on a schedule with flexible hours, another two benefit from reduced hours and another employee performs her duties through teleworking one day per week.

1.3 Staff Development

The Authority continues to support members of its staff at all levels to further their academic studies in specialised fields. These include the following:

Pierre Cassar	Chief Executive Diploma (Laws of Procedure) (University of Malta)
Joanna Spiteri	Head Monitoring Ph.D. in Film and Media Studies (University of Sterling, Scotland)
Mariella Caruana	Programme Monitor Diploma (Laws of Procedure) (University of Malta)

Meanwhile, Programme Monitors Jean Pierre Caligari and Elaine Galea successfully completed their Masters degree at the University of Malta. Mr Caligari obtained an M.A. in Maltese whereas Ms Galea graduated with an M.A. in Sociology. Both employees commenced their studies at Masters level after starting employment with the Authority. Employees furthering their studies in particular fields benefit from a study policy approved by the Authority which grants them special paid leave to enable them to pursue their academic duties.

Furthermore, Marilyn Dimech graduated as Doctor of Laws in November. Dr Dimech was in the final months of her studies when she joined the Monitoring Department on a fixed term contract.

In addition, the Authority, following discussions with the Department of Maltese Studies at the University of Malta, once again agreed to sponsor a number of employees hailing from the media industry to attend the certificate course in proof-reading of the Maltese language. These were Dione Borg, Annette Vella and Colette Seychell from Medialink. Communications Co. Ltd. and Natalie Bonnici from Education 22. The Authority believes in assisting producers and journalists from the broadcasting industry to attend such courses in a bid to improve the level of Maltese in broadcasting.

1.4 Sponsorship – Malta Journalism Awards

The Authority once again sponsored three categories in the Malta Journalism Awards organised by the Institute of Journalists (IGM). The three categories were: Broadcast Journalism TV - Script Category (winner Charlot Gouder, One), Broadcast Journalism TV - Film category (winner Basement Productions, NET TV) and the Broadcast Journalism - Radio Category (winner Cynthia Zerafa, RTK).

1.5 Reaching Out to the Industry

The Reach Out programme which was initiated in 2009 proved to be very successful with broadcasting stations and production houses. The need had long been felt to bring the Authority closer to the industry and to organise workshops to facilitate interpretation of the various laws relating to broadcasting.

Owing to the divorce referendum which was held in June, only one Reach-Out Seminar was held during the period in review. This was organised in conjunction with *Agenzija Appoġġ* and dealt with the portrayal of vulnerable people in the media. The



The Chairman, Mr Anthony J. Tabone
and the Authority's Staff

seminar was held on 31st August and was well attended by different stakeholders, including producers who regularly deal with such issues.

In addition to this seminar, the Chief Executive addressed an in-house seminar organised by the Gozitan community radio station Radju Lauretana which was held on 21st September 2011. The Chief Executive dealt with specific aspects of the Broadcasting Act which are relevant to community radio stations.

The Chief Executive was also the keynote speaker during the annual seminar organised by *Għaqda Gurnalisiti Sportivi*. His address dealt with specific issues relating to sports programmes as highlighted in the Broadcasting Act.

1.6 Participation in programmes on radio and television

During the year in review this was limited to the participation of the Head Monitoring in a discussion programme entitled *Kontra r-Rih* aired on Calypso Music Television on 31st January. The programme dealt with innuendoes and decency in satirical and comedy programmes.

1.7 The Monitoring Department

Apart from the normal routine monitoring of the main programmes on television and nationwide radio stations, the Monitoring Department was also charged with preparing a number of thematic reports, this apart from the increased volume in monitoring duties as a result of the divorce referendum (vide Chapter 6). A list of these reports is represented hereunder:

- The Monitoring Department analyses the TV Autumn/Winter schedule and Summer schedule and compiles a quantitative and qualitative report of these schedules. The reports include TVM, ONE and NET TV programme schedules.
- An analytical report highlighting the trends of the news bulletins during a specific period of time. The report presented trends on One News and NET News aired between October 2010 and April 2011. The report included an analysis of TVM news aired in June 2011. The aim of the report was to analyse whether the news bulletins were in line with the Requirements of News and Current Affairs Programmes.
- A report on quiz and game shows aired between October 2010 and June 2011. This report analysed four specific programmes under the programme genre of 'game show'. Such a report highlighted positive and negative aspects of such programme genre on the local channels. Being a descriptive report, it gave an overview of the content and technical aspects used for such programming. The report

concluded with some suggestions which might enhance such local programming.

- The report entitled “*Il-Midja Lokali u Persuni Potenzjalment Vulnerabbli*” gives an overview of the manner vulnerable people are treated and portrayed by the local media in different programme genres. The report also compared how vulnerable people are portrayed in local media as opposed to a number of foreign programmes, mainly those broadcast on the Italian and the UK channels. This report analysed programmes and also annual telethons which are organised in Malta to collect money for those in need. It pointed out incidents wherein such programming was not in line with the Requirements as to Standards and Practice Applicable to Participation in Media Programmes of Vulnerable Persons and the Requirements Applicable to Disability and its Portrayal in the Broadcasting Media.
- Report analyzing current affairs programmes aired on TVM during the period January – March 2011. The report gives an overview on the type of subjects tackled in these programmes, persons interviewed during these programmes and how such programmes were presented. It presented some conclusions in view of the legal requirements applicable to News Bulletins and Current Affairs Programmes as well as to other Requirements regarding crawls, competitions and the award of prizes even in such a programme genre.
- A descriptive report about teleshopping programmes and teleshopping slots aired on five TV stations (TVM, NET TV, ONE, Smash TV and Favourite Channel) and on the teleshopping channel (iTV). The report gave an overview of the way teleshopping slots are presented and commented about the quality of such productions. It also referred to irregularities of such programme genre in view of the Third Schedule of the Broadcasting Act.

- A trend report analysing two months transmission (January & February 2011) of TVM breakfast show programme ‘*Bongu*’. The report gave an overview of the content of this programme with particular reference to the opinion slots discussing current issues.
- After the introduction of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, the Monitoring Department compiled a report to study the impact of the AVMS Directive on local productions with specific reference to the introduction of product placement. The report analysed the introduction of product placement and prop placement in local programming and whether there was any effect on the scheduling of spot advertising within the programmes. The analysis was made on two different programme genres – drama and light entertainment programmes.

1.8 Security Services at the Gharghur Transmitting Facility

The Authority provides for security services at the Gharghur Transmitting Facility on a daily basis, including weekends and public holidays. This enables all users to gain access to the facility for any inspection or maintenance that needs to be undertaken on site. Outside daylight hours, admission to the site is only possible for urgent matters.

Over the past few years the Authority issued a yearly tender for the provision of such security services. In a bid to streamline operations, the Authority successfully sought approval for the publication of a tender document requesting such services for a three- year period.

The new service provider, who assumed responsibility as from 1st August 2011, is Kavallier Security, a company which in the past had already provided such services to the Authority.

2. Administrative Offences

During the year in review, the Chief Executive issued a total of 48 charges against broadcasting stations, an increase of 14% over the previous year. Charges are issued by the Chief Executive and then heard before the Authority when both the Chief Executive and the station concerned make their submissions.

The total number of charges excludes all other communication issued to the various broadcasting stations to address any shortcomings registered by the Monitoring Department. The table hereunder represents the total number of charges processed by the Authority during the year:

	Station	Charges
Television	TVM	16
	NET	7
	One	10
Nationwide Radios	XFM	2
	Bay	2
	Radju Malta	1
	Radju Marija	1
	One Radio	2
	Campus FM	1
Community Radios	Energy FM	1
	Deejays Radio	2
	Hompesch	1
	Lehen il-Belt Gorgjana	1
	Power FM	1
Total		48

On these 48 charges, the Authority made the following decisions:

- 19 warnings;
- 11 cases where the charge against the respective station was not proved;
- 5 instances when a fine suspended for a specific period of time was imposed on the station;
- 13 cases where a fine was imposed as per the provisions of the Fifth Schedule. In most cases the fine amounted to €1,160. The following is a breakdown of the fines imposed on the respective stations:
 - TVM was fined 5 times.
 - ONE was fined on 4 occasions.
 - NET TV was fined on 3 cases.
 - Another administrative fine was imposed on Radju Malta.

3. Broadcasting Licences

Article 10 (2) of the Broadcasting Act stipulates that:
“No person may provide sound or television broadcasting services in Malta for Malta or any part thereof without the licence in writing of the Authority, nor may any person retransmit sound or television broadcasting services from Malta to any foreign state without the licence in writing of the Authority.”

Apart from TVM and Education 22, both of which are licensed by the Government, the Authority licenses different genres of stations which at present include the following:

- free-to-air television stations;
- commercial television stations;
- satellite television stations;
- nationwide analogue radio stations;
- nationwide digital radio stations (on the DAB+ network);
- analogue community radio stations.

Digital Switchover – GIO Television Licences

The Digital Switch Over Steering Committee successfully concluded the digital switchover in August. The Broadcasting Authority was charged with licensing PBS to operate the multiplex (free-to-air network) and also to select and license the television stations that qualified as free-to-air general interest channels.

The process was three-pronged with the Authority issuing a network licence to PBS Ltd and then licensing ONE, NET TV

and Smash TV as general interest objective television stations for a five-year period. Initially the three stations enjoyed a period of simulcasting with both analogue and digital output until the analogue signal was switched off for good on 31st October 2011. TVM and E22 were the first stations to migrate to the digital platform as they were considered to be *de facto* general interest objective stations by virtue of their public remit. Interestingly, E22 also assumed a free-to-air status for the first time in its history given that the station was previously limited to GO and Melita subscribers and was not available on a free-to-air system.

The Authority also issued a call for applications to assign the last vacant slot on the network to a general interest objective station. Favourite Channel and Calypso Music Television submitted their applications and after a thorough analysis of the content being offered by both stations, the Authority decided to award general interest objective status to Favourite Channel for a five-year period. By virtue of this licence, Favourite Channel assumed a free-to-air status and did not remain exclusive domain to Melita subscribers. Calypso Music Television was awarded a five-year commercial licence for exclusive carriage on the GO network.

3.2 Radio Broadcasting Licences

3.2.1 Community Radio Stations

During the year under review, the following community radio stations were licensed to broadcast by the Authority:

Lic. No	Station	Valid From	Duration	Freq (MHz)	Power (Watts)
352/508	Radju Sokkors [Kerċem, Gozo]		2 yrs	95.1	4/2.8
356/515	Radju Lehen il-Ġużeppini [Għaxaq]		2 yrs	89.1	9/9.8
357/507	Radju Prekursur [Xewkija, Gozo]		2 yrs	99.3	6/4.6
359/516	Lehen il-Belt Ġorġjana [Qormi]		2 yrs	105.6	13/6.7
361/512	Energy FM [Fgura]		2 yrs	96.4	10/6
365/498	Radju Lehen il-Qala [Qala]		2 yrs	106.3	0.5
383/497	Radju Xeb-er-ras [Valletta]		2 yrs	90.8	6.5
384/509	BKR Radio 94.5FM [B'Kara]		2 yrs	94.5	7.4
388	Kiss FM [St. Paul's Bay] – up till Oct 2011		2 yrs	91.3	12
398/488	Bastjanizi FM [Qormi]		2 yrs	95	8.8
401	96.1 Vilhena FM [Floriana]		2 yrs	96.1	6.3
406/511	Radju Hompesch [Żabbar]		2 yrs	90	7.4
407	Radju Vilhena [Floriana]		2 yrs	106	5.6

Lic. No	Station	Valid From	Duration	Freq (MHz)	Power (Watts)
411/517	Pure Gold Christian Radio [Qormi]		2 yrs	97.8	9.6
417	Lehen il-Belt Victoria [Victoria, Gozo]		2 yrs	104.0	4.3
421	Christian Light Radio [Naxxar]		2 yrs	105.4	4.6
425/510	Radio Galaxy [Hamrun]		2 yrs	105	9.1
435	Kottoner 98FM [Cospicua]		2 yrs	98	9.9
439/503	Radio Sacro Cuor [Fontana, Gozo]		2 yrs	105.2	7.2
441	Deejays Radio 95.6FM [San Gwann]		2 yrs	95.6	5.5
448	Radju Bambina [Xaghra, Gozo]		2 yrs	98.3	7.6
449/505	Radju Luminaria [Nadur, Gozo]		2 yrs	106.9	4.2
450/506	Radju Katidral [Victoria, Gozo]		2 yrs	90.9	2.8
451/514	Big FM [B'Kara]		2 yrs	107.1	8.9
452/513	Power FM [Paola]		2 yrs	90.4	5
518	Radju Vizitazzjoni [Gharb, Gozo]		2 yrs	92.4	2.8
519	Radju Santa Katarina [Żurrieq]	29 Jun	2 yrs	90.6	9.9
492	Radio City [Valletta]	2 Dec	2 yrs	107.6	11.6
496	La Salle FM [Vittoriosa]	1 Dec	2 yrs	99.4	6.5
453	Jehovah's Witnesses: 2011 Circuit Assembly	8 Jan	2 days	108	0.5
468	Jehovah's Witnesses: 2011 Zone Talk +	8 & 29 May	1 day each	108	0.5
485	Jehovah's Witnesses: 2011 District Convention	9 Sep	3 days	108	0.5
454	Trinitarji FM [Marsa]	20 Apr	1 mth	89.3	8.8
463	"	20 May	1 mth	89.3	8.8
486	"	12 Sep	1 mth	89.3	8.8
461	Radju Lauretana [Għajnsielem, Gozo]	9 Apr	1 mth	96.5	4.3
470	"	21 May	17 days	96.5	4.3
479	"	1 Aug	30 days	89.3	4.3
490	"	8 Dec	1 mth	89.3	4.3
462	Radju Elenjani 95.8 [B'Kara]	8 Apr	1 mth	95.8	10.6
475	"	22 Jul	1 mth	95.8	10.6
489	"	8 Dec	1 mth	95.8	10.6
471	Radju Sant'Andrija [Luqa]	15 Jun	19 days	88.4	9.4
487	"	16 Nov	18 days	88.4	9.4
473	Lehen il-Karmelitani 101.4FM [Żurrieq]	25 Jun	1 mth	101.4	8.5
493	"	3 Dec	1 mth	101.4	8.5
477	Radju Marija Assunta [Għaxaq]	16 Jul	1 mth	98.9	9.1
495	"	12 Dec	27 days	98.9	9.1
478	Radju 15 ta' Awwissu [Qrendi]	23 Jul	25 days	98.3	3.5
491	"	12 Dec	1 mth	98.3	3.5
464	Radju Każin Banda San Filep [Żebbuġ, Malta]	12 May	1 mth	106.3	7.6

Lic. No	Station	Valid From	Duration	Freq (MHz)	Power (Watts)
465	Radju La Valette [Valletta]	11 Apr	14 days	95.3	6.3
466	Radju Hal Tarxien [Tarxien]	15 May	15 days	106.9	3.6
467	Radio 12th May [Żebbuġ, Malta]	13 May	1 mth	96.5	7.9
469	Radio Sacro Cuor Sliema [Sliema]	5 Jun	1 mth	94	8.5
471	Radju Banda Fgura FM [Fgura]	15 Jun	29 days	93.1	5.9
474	Radju Margerita [Sannat, Gozo]	28 Jun	29 days	96.1	6.9
481	Radio Leonardo [Kirkop]	8 Aug	16 days	105.2	4.9
483	MMG FM [Żabbar]	12 Aug	1 mth	97.5	6.6
484	Radju Maria Bambina 90.2FM [Mellieha]	20 Aug	1 mth	90.2	9.1
494	Tal-Gilju FM [Mqabba]	4 Dec	10 days	95.4	3.2

Community radio stations have remained popular and a number of temporary stations were awarded a licence to broadcast within their community for periods not exceeding one month. Such stations' broadcasts are usually in connection with the village feast or a seasonal activity such as Christmas or Easter.

One new licence for a community radio station to operate in Valletta was granted to Radio City (107.6MHz) in December. An expression of interest was also received for the setting up of a community radio station in Birzebbugia. The Authority gave the green light to this radio station as no community radio stations are currently operating in the region.

Two community radio stations, *Radju Kottoner* and *BKR Radio*, commenced broadcasts on the DAB+ network in 2011 which effectively means that they have assumed a quasi-nationwide reach, even though the terms and conditions of the licence issued to them as community radio stations remain in force, in particular those limitations pertaining to advertising and sponsorship. Even *Radju Lauretana*, a temporary community radio station operating from Ghajnsielem, benefitted from this provision in the law during its temporary broadcasts held in December.

Following the amendment to the Legal Notice 350.29 (Digital Radio Broadcasting Regulations), community radio stations are allowed the possibility of simulcasting their programmes on digital radio for a maximum of two years, following which they have to decide whether to migrate to the digital platform and assume national status or forfeit such a right to retain their community approach.

3.2.2 Nationwide Analogue Radio (FM/AM)

The number of nationwide stations on the FM dial has remained constant at 13 and this is the maximum limit of stations that the current combiner houses at Gharghur.

3.2.3 Digital Radio Platform

The new digital platform is slowly gaining ground in the Maltese islands. Established in 2008, Digi B+ operates the only digital radio platform in Malta and has rolled out a number of foreign stations together with most of the local analogue FM stations. According to research conducted by the Authority, nearly 10% of the population claims to now have access to this new medium.

In 2011, one new station was licensed by the Authority to operate exclusively on the DAB+ network. Known as *All R&B*, this is a 24/7 music station licensed to the operators of the network. The station obtained a four-year licence commencing on 25th July.

3.3 Nationwide Television Stations

3.3.1 New Licences

		Valid From
STL 18	Dijle TV	12 Sep 2011
STL 19	Denge TV	12 Sep 2011
STL 20	Medya TV	12 Sep 2011
STL 21	Ekin TV	12 Sep 2011
STL 22	Ask TV	1 Oct 2011
STL 23	SRT TV	7 Dec 2011
STL 24	Max TV	30 Dec 2011
STL 25	Kastamonu TV	30 Dec 2011
STL 26	Aba TV	30 Dec 2011
STL 27	Yurdum TV	30 Dec 2011
STL 28	Berat TV	30 Dec 2011
STL 29	A9	30 Dec 2011
STL 30	Kanal 34	30 Dec 2011
STL 31	Anadolu Yurdum	30 Dec 2011
STL 32	MMC	30 Dec 2011
STL 33	Sebil	30 Dec 2011
STL 34	Kanal 99	30 Dec 2011

The number of local television stations increased by yet another new channel as the Authority approved and licensed a teleshopping channel known as *Prime TV Shopping Channel*. The station is available exclusively on the Melita network and commenced broadcasts on 1st August. As has been customary over the past few years, such a station was initially awarded a probationary one-year licence during which the Authority could monitor its programme performance. *Prime TV Shopping Channel* brings the total number of local television channels (excluding own-broadcast channels owned by GO and Melita) to nine.

Following the licensing of various thematic stations to a Belgian based company, *Icon-Europe*, the Authority renewed and approved a number of licences to this company, which primarily targets Turkish-speaking communities in Central Asia and Central and Eastern Europe. The company is duly registered in Malta with the Malta Financial Services Authority as *Aureusfin Limited*.

The Authority issued five new satellite licences to the company during the year in review. These were issued to *SRT TV*, *Dilje*, *Denge*, *Medya* and *Ekin*. At the same time, the company also submitted a request to rename (for branding purposes) most of the existing stations already licensed by the Broadcasting Act. The total number of channels currently licensed to *Aureusfin Limited* amounts to 17. A list of the stations licensed to this company is found in the table hereunder.

3.3.2 New Applications

The Authority did not have any pending applications to process at the end of the year although it dealt with several preliminary queries from foreign-based companies interested in applying for a satellite television service under the Broadcasting Act. At the end of the year however, no such formal applications were received by the Authority.

4. Programme Complaints

During the year under review the Authority received and decided a total of fourteen complaints from various quarters including political parties, private individuals and other entities:

1. PN vs TVM – *Bondiplus* of 15th November 2010

The PN argued that the participation of Dr Charles Mangion as the only guest in a programme was against the balance and impartiality that had to be achieved by PBS on each individual programme. The Authority held that it was clear that this edition of the programme was a continuation of an earlier edition of *Bondiplus* which featured an interview with the Minister for Finance Tonio Fenech and therefore the participation of Dr Mangion was providing the required balance.

2. Għaqda Każin tal-Banda San Filep vs TVM – *News of 24th November 2010*

The Band Club contended that the station failed to broadcast a right of reply in relation to a news item aired on the main news bulletin where it was stated that the first band club to be set up in the Maltese Islands was that of De Rohan in Zebbug. The Authority held that it was not in its competence to go into the merits of the case. In view of the fact that the information featured was retrieved from published research and that the station was unaware of any contestation, the station's refusal to broadcast the right of reply was not in breach. Nevertheless, the Authority recommended that in future the station should treat such issues with greater sensitivity.

3. Godfrey Grima vs Net TV, Right of Reply – *NET News*

Net TV had broadcast the requested right of reply but added to this its own comments and views. After drawing its attention, the station then broadcast the full version of the right of reply as submitted followed by its comments and interpretation. Mr Godfrey Grima argued that these comments had in fact mitigated the effectiveness of the said reply and at the same time violated the relevant legal dispositions. The Authority noted that the manner in which the right of reply was broadcast in the second instance was in conformity with the dispositions of the Subsidiary Legislation regulating News and Current Affairs; nevertheless the Authority drew the attention of the station to the length of the comments broadcast after the right of reply which were deemed excessive.

4. Francis Said vs PBS – *News of 27th December 2010*

The claim by Mr Francis Said that his involvement and contribution in the setting up of fund-raising campaigns, namely *L-Istrina* on TVM, was omitted and ignored in

a news item on the matter in TVM's bulletin of the 17th December 2010 was not sufficiently proven and could not be upheld.

5. PL vs PBS – *Bondiplus* of 20th December 2010

This edition of *Bondiplus* dealt with the increase in the honoraria of the Prime Minister, Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. In its complaint the Labour Party argued that the station broadcast information and interviews which were deemed as incorrect and untruthful. The Authority held that the information contained in the relative tabulation on those Members of Parliament who had actually replied to the questions put forward by the producers was adequately presented. On the other hand, since the declarations and comments made by certain Members of Parliament were recorded and aired during the programme, the producers should have also balanced out with the reactions of the interested parties. In its decision the Authority directed the station to read out its decision.

6. PL vs PBS – *Bondiplus* of 28th February 2011 and 7th March 2011

These two editions of *Bondiplus* dealt with the conflict in Libya. The Labour Party complained that these two programmes featuring the exclusive participation of the Prime Minister (28th February) and the Deputy Prime Minister (7th March) constituted a breach of the principles of balance and impartiality given that the issues discussed were of significant current public policy even though both the Government and the Opposition agreed on them. The Authority concluded that the first edition involving a one-to-one style programme was consistent with prior rulings whereby it had been held that this format did not necessarily result in impartiality. On the other hand, referring to the second programme of 7th March, the Authority held that although the station felt the need to invite a PL spokesperson but did not seek an alternative once such participation was not forthcoming, an imbalance against the PL was created and therefore the Authority decided that the complaint was, in this respect, justified. Given the significant lapse of time, the Authority could not award a remedy.

7. Moviment Żwieġ Bla Divorzju vs One Productions - *Affari Tagħna* of 20th May 2011

The edition of this programme dealt with cohabitation and the complainant held that the programme was completely in favour of the Movement for divorce, one of the Movements involved in a current public controversy. In fact, the complainant's offer to participate in the

programme was turned down by the producers while none of the guests in the programme took a balanced approach to cohabitation. The Authority held that the programme was in breach of the principles of impartiality and also in breach of its directive for the Referendum on Divorce. The Authority ordered the station to broadcast a declaration by the complainant in reply to the issues raised.

8. Federazzjoni Kaċċaturi Nassaba Konservazzjonisti vs TVM – Bondiplus of 6th June 201

The aim of this edition was that of demonstrating and informing the public on animal welfare and the veterinary services and facilities in place for the treatment and curing of wounded birds offered by Birdlife Malta. The complainant argued that in this edition reference to hunting was taken out of context and associated such practices with animal cruelty. The Authority held that the association by an ordinary televiewer between hunting and animal cruelty was unavoidable. However, the feature on wounded birds through hunting was unjustified even though any association between hunting and animal cruelty was unintentional on the part of the station. In view of this, the Authority upheld the complaint, but in the circumstances of the case no remedy was awarded.

9. PL vs PBS Ltd – TVM News of 19th August 2011

The news item concerned the introduction of the concept of remission within the prison system on which there was manifest disagreement between the Government and the Opposition as to the way this new system should operate. A right of reply was granted on the main news bulletin of TVM. However during the actual reading of the said reply the operator had inadvertently broadcast the footage featuring the actual comments made on the previous broadcast. The Authority held that the station, although complying in its entirety to the right of reply, was in breach of legislation when it re-broadcast the visuals and comments and pointed out that any editorial comments broadcast after the right of reply have to be concise and should not adversely affect the content of the said reply.

10. PL vs PBS – TVM News of 28th September 2011

A news item of the News Bulletin on TVM concerned the coverage of a Press Conference by Labour Party spokesperson on broadcasting. Although a station is allowed to broadcast its own comments on a particular report provided such comments are markedly distinct from the actual report, in this case the station comments were made just before the actual broadcast of the report on the Press Conference. The Authority upheld the complaint and decided that this was unfair and unjust treatment by the station.

11. Dr Natalino Fenech vs ONE Productions, Right of Reply – One News of 15th and 16th September 2011

The complainant had requested a right of reply to two news items of One News on the latest decisions taken by the Broadcasting Authority with regard to unfair and unjust

treatment in news by PBS. ONE Productions argued that the content of the right of reply requested was already reflected in the coverage of the press release issued by the Broadcasting Authority. The Authority decided that it could not accept this reasoning to justify the decision not to broadcast the right of reply of Dr Natalino Fenech. However, given the fact that owing to uncontrollable circumstances this case had taken a number of weeks to be concluded, the Authority was not going to award a remedy.

12. Philip Vella vs NET TV – NET News of 15th and 17th October 2011

A right of reply was sought by the Mayor of the locality of Sannat in Gozo and was duly read out on *Net News*. However, in this case, the station comments to the right of reply were introduced in the middle and not inserted after the reply was read out in full. The Authority decided that the complaint was justified and upheld it. Nevertheless, the Authority felt that in the circumstances no remedy was to be awarded.

13. PL vs PBS – TVM – News of 3rd October 2011

A news item was produced through a direct link with Parliament for the resumption/opening session after the summer recess. Whilst being interviewed, the Speaker of the House informed the journalists that the Prime Minister was about to make a declaration which was subsequently covered live in the news bulletin. This was a new development to live coverage and the station thought that a reaction on the spot by the Leader of the Opposition was not possible. However such reaction was reported a week later by the station. In this interim period the PL requested a right a reply. The Authority took note of the submission of the parties and decided that the complaint was unjustified and could not be upheld.

14. PL vs TVM – News of 12th and 13th November 2011

For the *News* of the 12th the Labour Party argued that a Press Conference given by its spokespersons was not adequately reported during the TVM news bulletin while for the *News* of the 13th the complainant deemed that a news item was tantamount to the ‘underlying theme’ propounded by the Nationalist Party in the run-up to the Budget – the economic and financial situation in Spain and Greece - through the invitation of the Minister of Finance to the studio and through live links with journalists in Spain and Greece. The PL argued that these were clear cases of agenda setting. The station contended that the PL failed to highlight the points omitted in the coverage of the Press Conference; that the news item reflected parts of the actual press release issued by the PL; that it was news value that dictated the running order; and that the station had the right to apply its own discretion in the determination of such value. The Authority could not uphold the complaint as this had not been adequately proven even after the two PBS journalists involved in the two news items were also called and heard.

5. International Relations

This year the Broadcasting Authority was engaged more actively than usual in maintaining healthy dynamic relationships with regulatory authorities in the Mediterranean region through the organisation of the Plenary Session of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA). Owing to an unusually busy period connected to a referendum, the Authority's regulatory role tipped the scales and participation in the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) events was limited to one meeting. But the Maltese Authority took the opportunity to further enhance its overseas connections by accepting an invitation to form part of a new Committee for EU member states.

5.1 Committee for EU Regulatory Authorities

The Cypriot Broadcasting Authority (CRTA) supported by Portugal and Malta embarked on an initiative to set up a special committee which would incorporate EU member states.

The need has been felt to set up this organisation which would cater exclusively for broadcasting issues relating to EU member states. Given that EPRA caters for all European broadcasting authorities and membership in the MNRA is limited to nations within the Mediterranean basin, such a new Committee would concentrate on matters that relate exclusively to the members' affiliation with the European Union.

A preliminary meeting was held in Limassol, Cyprus on 5th May 2011. The Authority was represented by its Chairman and Chief Executive. The gathering explored ways and means of establishing closer collaboration in dealing with issues relating to broadcasting amongst EU member states.

The Authority was asked to share its experiences with the transposition of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive with specific reference to product placement. A presentation on the topic was made by the Chief Executive.

The Committee was expected to meet again in November at the invitation of the French Authority (CSA), but unfortunately this did not materialise and the CRTA has now pledged to revive this Committee with another meeting to be held in Cyprus this year.

5.2 European Platform of Regulatory Authorities

Two plenary sessions are usually held throughout the year for EPRA members. Given that the spring meeting was scheduled to take place on the same day as the divorce referendum (i.e. 28th May), the Authority was not present for the meeting held in Ohrid, Macedonia.

The following issues featured on the agenda of the meeting:

- Content Regulation and new Media: Exploring Regulatory Boundaries between Traditional and New Media
- Product Placement
- Radio in the Digital Environment
- EU spectrum policy/Digital Dividend
- Issues of Independence and Governance of Regulatory Authorities

During the meeting in Ohrid, a new committee for EPRA was elected. The members were elected for a two-year term.

The October session was held in Brussels, Belgium and the Authority was represented by its Chairman and Chief Executive. The main topic in the keynote address was: *Content Regulation and New Media: Jurisdiction Challenges in a Video on Demand Environment*. The Chairman participated in the working group on product placement while the Chief Executive attended the discussion on new media and the protection of minors.

5.3 Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities

This was a particularly busy year for the Authority as it held the Vice-Presidency of the Network and as a result was charged with the organisation of the Technical Commission Meeting and the Plenary Session.

Following consultation with the RTUK (the Turkish Authority) which held the Presidency of the Network, the Technical Commission Meeting was held in Malta at the Seashells Resort at Suncrest Hotel in late June. The meeting was well attended with delegates from Turkey, France, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Lebanon, Morocco, France and Macedonia travelling to Malta to establish the agenda for the plenary session. Following an intense one-day workshop, the members unanimously decided that the two main topics for the Plenary Session should focus on thematic programming and reality television.



Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities
Technical Meeting, 22nd – 24th June 2011

Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities [MNRA]

During the next few months, the agenda was revised a number of times, namely to reflect the interest expressed from various authorities and the number of keynote speakers that came forward to deliver presentations during the session. The political upheaval in North Africa and the Middle East played a major role in re-shaping the final agenda of the meeting. In fact, one of the keynote topics focused on the challenges of audio-visual regulation in the Mediterranean basin.

The plenary session was held in the third week of November, which by normal standards can be considered to be very late in the year. Given the many fora and seminars happening in the Mediterranean region as well as important elections and religious events taking place in other countries, it was unanimously agreed that the plenary session was to be held in Malta on 24th and 25th November.

The Plenary Session was held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior and was officially inaugurated by H.E. Dr George Abela, President of Malta. Keynote presentations were delivered by the Chief Executive and the Head Monitoring of the BA Malta as well as by the BCRM (Macedonia), AGCOM (Italy) and CSA (France).

Members of nineteen regulatory authorities travelled to Malta for this session, making the 13th plenary session of the Network one of the best ever attended meetings in the history of this important organisation. Only Greece and Croatia were not present in Malta whilst a delegation from Kosovo attended the meeting to submit its application to join the Network as an observer member.

At the end of the two-day meeting, the members unanimously decided to accept Montenegro as a member within MNRA and Kosovo as an observer member as per the statute of the Network. Portugal was elected as the vice-Chair of the Network for the coming year, meaning that both the Technical Commission meeting and the Plenary Session of 2012 will be held in Portugal.

The Chairman of the Authority, Anthony J Tabone, was handed the presidency of the Network by outgoing Turkish president, Professor Davut Dursun. In the closing speech, the Chairman of the Authority thanked RTUK for its work during the presidency and pledged Malta's commitment to ensure that MNRA remained an active and relevant network in the region.



Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities 13th Plenary Meeting
24th – 25th November 2011, Grand Hotel Excelsior



5.4 Contact Committee established by the Audiovisual Media Services Directive

During the year two meetings (34th and 35th) were held by the EU Commission for the Contact Committee of the AVMS Directive at Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Brussels on 24th May and 23rd November 2011. The 34th meeting was attended by Mr Mario Axiak, Head of Research & Communications. The 35th meeting coincided with the start of the bi-annual meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities hosted by the Broadcasting Authority in Malta, and arrangements were made so that a representative from the Permanent Representation Office of Malta for the EU would attend.

6. The Divorce Referendum

No elections were on the cards for the year in review until the divorce issue was placed on the country's agenda and eventually led to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition agreeing to a consultative referendum on the introduction or otherwise of divorce. This was held on 28th May.

The divorce issue posed a rather unique situation for the Authority as there was a division of opinion within political parties themselves on the issue. Apart from Alternattiva Demokratika, which had always declared its position in favour of divorce, initially the two main political parties had no clear stand on the matter. As the campaign unfolded, the Nationalist Party declared itself against the introduction of divorce while the Partit Laburista never expressed an official position on the matter. In truth, there was a divergence of opinion on the issue within each major Party, and on this premise, the Authority recommended that the political parties should not be involved in the scheme of political broadcasts which was due to be organised by the Authority.

Article 13(4) of the Broadcasting Act *inter alia* states that: "It shall also be the duty of the Authority to produce properly balanced discussions and debates that afford access to persons from different interest-groups and with different points of view".

Following discussions with the three main political parties in Malta, an agreement was reached whereby Alternattiva Demokratika was granted ten minutes of political spots, ALDM (Alleanza Liberali Demokratika Malta) was awarded two 30-second spots whilst the Nationalist Party and Partit Laburista agreed not to participate in the scheme. This led to the Authority organising a scheme of broadcasts which was limited to the two main Movements of the campaign: *Moviment Iva Għaż-Żwieġ*, *Iva Għad-Divorzju* and *Moviment Le Għad-Divorzju* and to the two political parties which had accepted to take part in the scheme.

In agreement with representatives of the two Movements, the Authority finalised a scheme of broadcasts which consisted of the following:

- one 60-minute debate involving two representatives from each Movement;
- one 45-minute debate between the two chairpersons of the movements;
- two 60-minute news conferences (one for each Movement);
- 60 minutes for each Movement for spots and productions.

The two debates were aired on TVM on Wednesday 11th May and Thursday 26th May respectively while the two news conferences were broadcast on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th May. A representative of the *Moviment Iva Għad-Divorzju*, participated in the news conference during which she answered questions put forward by journalists from PBS Ltd, RTK, Media. Link Communications, Allied Newspapers, Di-ve.com and Favourite Channel while a representative of the *Moviment Iva Għaż-Żwieġ* answered questions addressed by journalists from PBS Ltd, RTK, ONE, Malta Today, The Malta Independent and L-Orizzont.

As the campaign progressed, a number of Movements in favour of or against the introduction of divorce were formed. The *Movement Kristu Iva, Divorzju Le* contended that it should be apportioned airtime to participate in the scheme of broadcasts organised by the Authority. However, the Authority ruled that the two opposing schools of thought were already being represented in its scheme as this incorporated those who were in favour and those who opposed the introduction of divorce.

6.1 Directive governing broadcasts during referendum campaign

Under Article 15 of the Broadcasting Act, the Authority issued a directive to all broadcasting stations covering the period 11th April to 28th May. During the said period, a number of infringements were noted which led the Chief Executive to issue a charge against the defaulting stations. Although these charges are listed elsewhere in this annual report (Administrative Offences), hereunder is an overview of the charges decided by the Authority relating to the two days of silence.

6.1.1 Campus FM – 'X'Rajt, Qrajt, Smajt... u x'Nahseb Jien' broadcast on 27th May

During this programme, the presenter made specific reference to the divorce issue and argued against a position taken by a member of the clergy in the debate as to whether divorce should be introduced in Malta. The Authority decided that the contents of this broadcast were in breach of its directive issued in relation to the divorce referendum campaign and imposed a fine of €4,660 suspended for a 30-month period.

6.1.2 Radju Marija – 'Il-Mulej Hu r- Raghaj Tieghi' broadcast on 27th May.

During this programme, the presenter made specific references against the introduction of divorce in Malta. The Authority decided that this broadcast breached the provisions of the directive issued to all broadcasting stations in relation to the divorce referendum and found the station guilty of the offence under Article 15 of the Broadcasting Act. It fined the station €4,660 suspended for a 30-month period.

6.1.3 ONE

There were three instances during the marathon broadcast transmitted on 28th May in which the station allegedly breached the provisions of the directive issued by the Authority in relation to the divorce referendum. One case involved a political analysis of the divorce referendum which included specific comments on the positions taken by the main political parties on the issue. The second case involved the broadcast of a comment made the Leader of the Opposition just as he had cast his vote, and the third involved news updates broadcast late in the evening when the polling stations were still open which highlighted the statement made by the Church regarding its position in the divorce campaign. In these three instances, the Authority found that ONE had breached the provisions of the directive and imposed a fine of €4,660.

6.1.4 TVM – ‘Kelma Għall-Ħajja’

The Chief Executive issued a charge against TVM for an alleged breach of the directive, given that part of this religious programme broadcast on 28th May focused on the importance of the family. As the concept of family was closely linked to the divorce referendum, the Chief Executive argued that such a broadcast should not have been aired on the days of silence. The Authority, however, did not agree with the arguments made by the Chief Executive and decided that TVM had not breached the directive on divorce as a result of this broadcast.

6.1.5 NET TV

The Chief Executive issued a charge against NET TV for an alleged breach of the divorce directive as during a special broadcast transmitted on 28th May, a couple belonging to the Cana Movement was interviewed on its work undertaken

during past years. The Chief Executive argued that such a broadcast was in breach of the directive on the days of silence, given that the Cana Movement was closely associated with the institution of marriage and hence this had a bearing on the divorce issue. After hearing the submissions by the station, the Authority ruled that there was no breach of the directive as a result of this broadcast.

6.1.6 Constitutional Case against the Authority

On 12th May, the *Moviment Iva Għaż-Żwieġ, Iva Għad-Divorzju* aired a political spot in which a clip featuring Reverend Charles Vella, founder of the Cana Movement, was used. This clip, which was originally featured on ONE during an edition of *Bla Agenda* hosted by Norman Hamilton, included Fr Vella stating, amongst other things, that divorce did not scare him. The spot was aired on TVM as part of the scheme of broadcasts organised by the Authority and the following day, Fr Vella’s lawyers filed a complaint with the Authority on the grounds that their client was quoted out of context which gave the impression that the founder of the Cana Movement was in favour of divorce.

After seeking legal advice, the Authority ruled that the clip should not be broadcast again as part of this scheme and this led to the *Moviment Iva Għad-Divorzju* filing a constitutional case against the Authority for a breach of freedom of expression. The Movement asked the Court to appoint the case with urgency and the Court, presided over by Judge Zammit Mckeon delivered judgement on Monday 23rd May. It ruled in favour of the Authority, thus justifying the decision for the withdrawal of the spot featuring Reverend Vella.

7. Radio and Television Audience Assessment

Article 30(2) of the Broadcasting Act, Chapter 350 of the Laws of Malta requires the Broadcasting Authority to collect relevant data on audiences of broadcast media on radio and television to ascertain:

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

Again this year, the Broadcasting Authority commissioned the National Statistics Office for the collection of relevant data on audiences. Although the Broadcasting Authority regulates broadcasting content of all local radio and television broadcasts, its primary obligation is not only towards the stations licensed but also that of ensuring adequate quality levels of broadcasting to the general public and that of providing such data to all media players including the business community that makes use of such platforms.

The National Statistics Office collected the data on a daily basis through telephone interviews based on a stratified sample in harmony to national demographics; this was forwarded to the Broadcasting Authority on a quarterly basis. The total averaged results of each quarter eliminate any possibility of misleading ‘high-peaked audiences’ attributed to programme manipulation by radio and television producers and results in a continuous analysis and monitoring of radio and television audiences.

The National Statistics Office administered the survey parameters and data collection. Respondents are known only to the N.S.O., and the Authority only receives the gender, age, and location (together with the media preferences) of each respondent. No other personal data is revealed and no respondent can ever be identified. This is evident from the high response rate attained by the N.S.O. The net sample size over a broadcasting year starting October 2010 to September 2011 consisted of 7,297 respondents, resulting in the desired target participants of 20 daily interviewees. Throughout this period, the Broadcasting Authority published four audience assessments with each assessment having the following response rate and margin of error:

The minimum age of respondents was 12 years while the oldest person interviewed during this period was 101 years old, and on average, only 4.47% of all those contacted refused to participate. This resulted in an average response rate of 55.17%.

For each quarter the N.S.O. provided the Authority with the estimated total population size of all persons over 12 years old; a calibration weight for each respondent so that the replies could be weighted to represent the desired quarterly sample; and a grossing-up weight for each respondent to represent the total population. These weights were used in the publication of quarterly audience statistics.

For this assessment period, slight improvements were also introduced. When interviewers researched the type of television reception systems available at households, respondents were directly asked whether they have “Melita” and/or “GO” instead of “Cable analogue and/or digital system” and/or “Digital Aerial with decoder system”. For this question respondents were also asked whether they have a “Free-to-air Aerial”; a “Satellite”; make use of the “Internet (including Dreambox)”; any other system not mentioned; or do not have a TV-set – thus allowing for multiple replies.

During this assessment period a Consultative National Referendum was held on 28th May in which the electorate voted to permit the introduction of divorce. Political Broadcasts organised by the Broadcasting Authority were held on 11th, 17th, 19th, and 26th May 2011.

Furthermore, another important change that impacted this assessment period was the digital switchover. On 24th June, Legal Notice No. 240 of 2011, *General Interest Objectives (Television Services) Selection Criteria) Regulations, 2011*, was published in the Government Gazette, setting out the criteria to be adopted by the Broadcasting Authority in the selection of television services that fulfil a general interest objective for both generalist or niche broadcasting services. This legal notice set the way for the setting-up of the “free-to-air” broadcasting stations and the run-down to the switch-over from analogue to digital TV broadcasting.

On 27th June the Broadcasting Authority issued calls for application for GIO status of TV broadcasting stations to be hosted on the free-to-air broadcasting platform run by the public broadcaster PBS Ltd. in view of digital change-over at the end of October 2011. The process was carried out jointly by the Broadcasting Authority and the Malta Communications Authority under a consultative committee with local stakeholders. The selection process was concluded on 20th July 2011. Since TVM and Education 22 are both run by the public broadcaster and due to their national obligations, these two stations were *de facto* given GIO status. Of the other local broadcasting stations, ONE, Net TV, Smash TV and Favourite Channel were selected and given GIO status.

7.1 Audience Analysis

For each broadcast quarter, the analysis of radio and television audiences is prepared on two different parameters:

- **audience reach** which is defined as the number of listeners/viewers of a particular broadcasting station; and
- **audience share** which is the total amount of broadcasting time that is consumed by listeners/viewers.

These two measures can be made use of differently depending on the scrutiny being made by the end-users of this assessment. While advertisers are interested in the number and composition of people that tune-in to a particular broadcasting station, station managers are more concerned with the length of time that they can maintain with their audiences.

7.2 Radio and Television Consumption

On the above basis, radio and television consumption can be measured through these two constants: comparison between media consumers against non-users; and the daily average hours that listeners and viewers spend with their reception sets.

Since 2006 regular radio listening was maintained with just over/under the 50% level of the population with radio listeners constantly exceeding non-listeners by about 10% for the past nine broadcasting seasons since April-June 2009. Radio listening through the summer months of July to September of each year has only seen a very slight increase over the previous yearly quarters of the same year. This means that the high rise in radio listening that is expected during the summer months as against that during peak TV season is marginally significant as it does not exceed the 5% mark when also considering the margin of error. Thus, on a quarterly basis, the number of

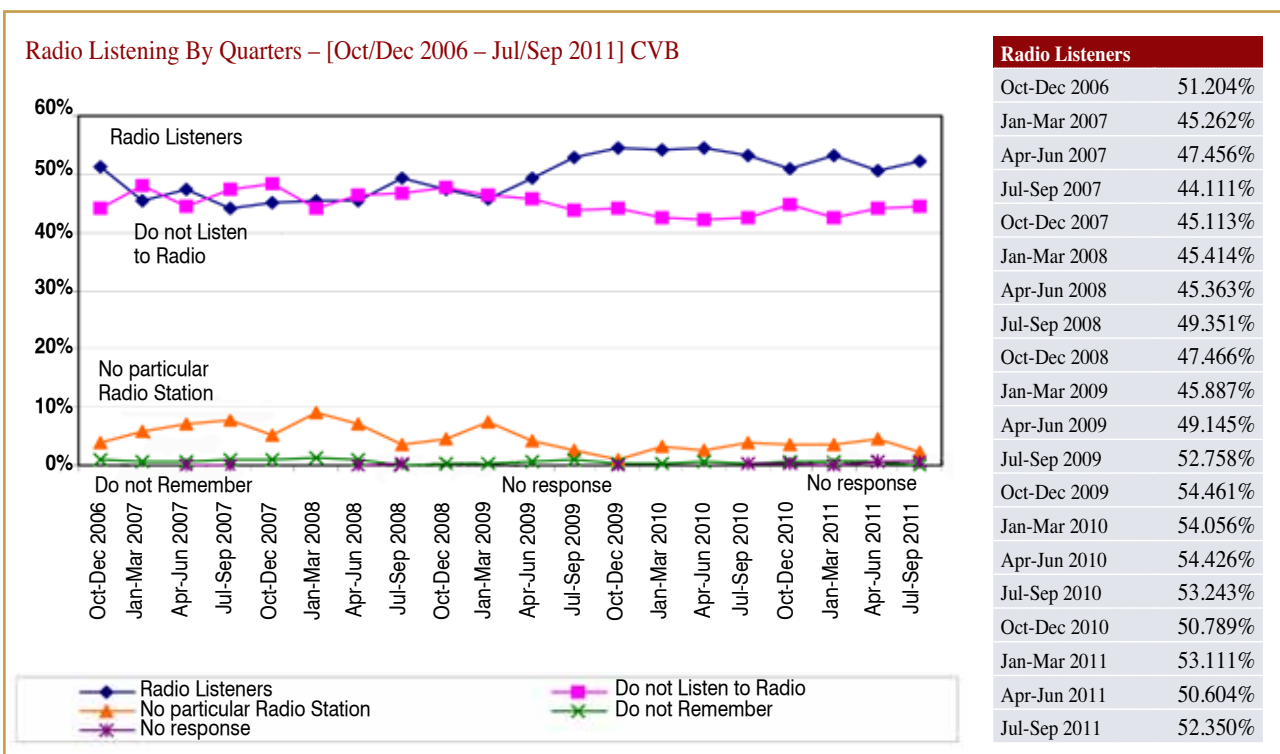
people listening to radio is quite regular during the whole year with only a slight increase during the summer months – see Table and Figure below.

Taking all radio listeners and the time they had spent listening to radio, it can be seen that the total number of hours that regular radio listeners spend listening to programmes has decreased by more than 29.7% from 4.41 hours for October-December 2006 to 3.10 hours for July-September 2011. On the other hand, taking all consumed time-slots and dividing over the whole population, national average radio consumption has decreased by 28.32% from 2.26 hours to 1.62 hours of daily listening.

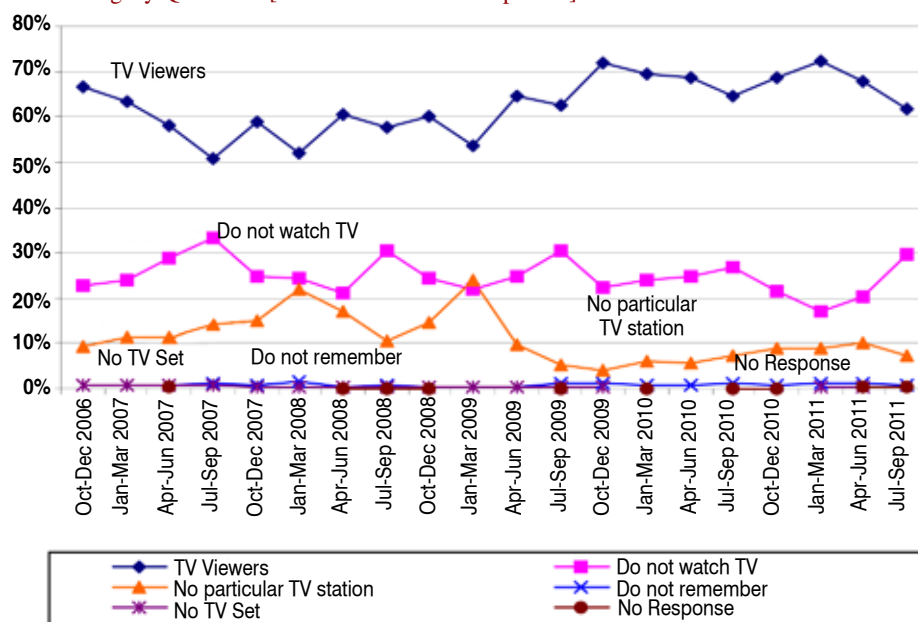
The figures indicate that although radio listeners steadily exceeded non-listeners for the past ten broadcasting quarters [since April-June 2009], there was also a decrease in the number of daily average hours spent by consumers, indicating that radio listeners may be turning to other forms of media platforms.

Similar to radio, the expected loss of television viewing to radio listening during the summer months was only marginal and confirms that TV viewing only decreases marginally during the summer period while reaching its highest in the following quarter – the start of the broadcasting season. Of note is the trend of those who stated that they had watched television the day before the interview but did not watch any particular station: this implies channel hopping.

On the other hand, and unlike radio where there is visibly a slight downward trend, the daily average number of TV-hours consumed has remained quite constant with slightly low peaks during the summer months.



TV Viewing By Quarters – [Oct-Dec 2006 to Jul-Sep 2011]



TV Viewers

Oct-Dec 2006	66.521%
Jan-Mar 2007	63.211%
Apr-Jun 2007	57.965%
Jul-Sep 2007	50.778%
Oct-Dec 2007	58.807%
Jan-Mar 2008	51.862%
Apr-Jun 2008	60.615%
Jul-Sep 2008	57.764%
Oct-Dec 2008	60.272%
Jan-Mar 2009	53.497%
Apr-Jun 2009	64.534%
Jul-Sep 2009	62.425%
Oct-Dec 2009	71.926%
Jan-Mar 2010	69.389%
Apr-Jun 2010	68.774%
Jul-Sep 2010	64.578%
Oct-Dec 2010	68.590%
Jan-Mar 2011	72.167%
Apr-Jun 2011	67.637%
Jul-Sep 2011	61.694%

These two statements have a great bearing on the scheduling of programmes by both radio and television stations, the number of listeners and viewers of each broadcasting station, and each station's audience share.

Since the quarter of October-December 2008, Bay Radio has attracted the largest number of radio listeners, followed by ONE Radio and Calypso Radio. However, taking into consideration the amount of time spent by radio listeners, the ranking of broadcasting stations by audiences differs for these same three stations. Although these and ten other radio stations all broadcast nationwide, the compositions of their audiences differ depending on the type of broadcast content being provided and the section of the population being targeted by the respective station. The amount of time that listeners of Bay Radio have tuned in is much less than the amount of time listeners spent listening to ONE Radio and although Bay Radio has attracted the largest number of listeners, its share of audiences often ranked second and third. In fact, since July-September 2009 the audience shares of these three top stations have reversed positions with each other.

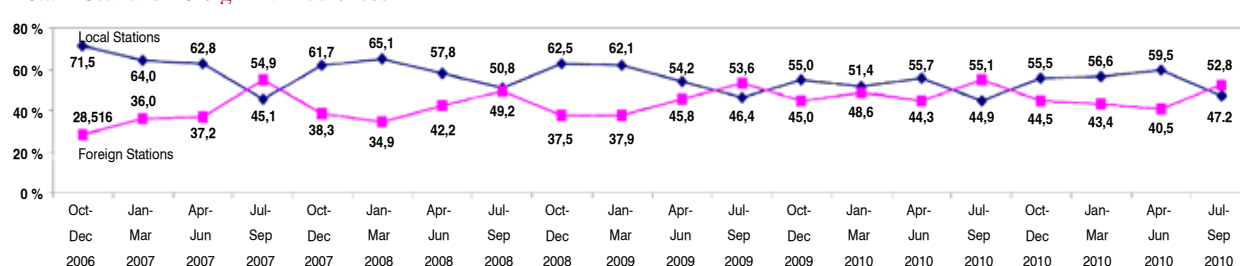
The marked distinction of these three radio stations over the rest of the stations is evident in both the rankings by the number of listeners as well as the rankings by the audience share of each station.

Similarly to the above, three TV stations have maintained their top positions throughout with regard to audience size: TVM, ONE and NET TV. On the other hand, TVM has lost its audience share to ONE during the summer periods of July-September 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 repeatedly. Moreover, although ONE ranked first during the summer months, when the total audience shares were classified by local stations' and foreign stations' audiences, results show that local TV-viewers watch more foreign broadcasting stations than local stations during the same quarters – see Figure below.

For sure, in both radio and television, listeners and viewers have become less station-elite and would follow their favourite programme genre on any station that meets their preference.

Moreover, the difference between the total audiences for local broadcasting stations and foreign stations has diminished – see

Total Local and Foreign TV Audiences



October-December 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 in Figure below. It is important to highlight that during this period there was the introduction of different forms of platforms for both radio and television, including multi-channel television in the form of cable and digital aerial services, satellite and Internet reception, and digital radio. Viewers with multiple channels, both satellite and cable, have a substantial advantage over viewers with only terrestrial free-to-air transmissions.

7.3 Reception Platforms

“For European Public Service Broadcasters ... as technology, the choice of digital terrestrial television [DTTV] ... represents the continuation of free-to-air broadcast television. In this sense, DTTV is a logical and the most natural choice for Public Service Broadcasters when switching from analogue to digital technology”.¹

The expense required in meeting the cost of new production and transmission equipment, and the expense of simulcasting in both analogue and digital until switch-off, have to be funded by both public service broadcasters and commercial broadcasters. While the extent of participation by Public Service Broadcasters is constrained by the amount of funding available to them and their public service mandates, the main financial concern for commercial broadcasters, however, is not the actual cost but rather the possible audience fragmentation resulting from the licensing of new digital channels.

The granting of DTTV licences to existing commercial broadcasters enables such licensees to operate across different platforms/channels and aggregate audiences across those channels, thus mitigating the potential financial harm resulting from digital transition. This is more so in the case where a switch-off date was announced with no threshold set neither for broadcasting standards nor for the reception capability by licensees and consumers/audiences respectively.

The implication of such licensing decision is that while in theory DTTV has the potential to enhance diversity of broadcasting, in practice it is mainly consolidating the position of existing operators in an already highly competitive multi-channel environment and leads towards an “all platforms” approach to digital television.

In view of digital switchover and the introduction of pay-tv through cable and digital aerial, the Broadcasting Authority started researching the availability of the various platforms to local households as far back as October-December 2006. Without doubt, consumer knowledge of the system used “at home” was limited – interviewers had quite often to describe the set-top box [black or silver] hired by the respondents with

complications arising when both set-top boxes became similar in colour, the situation worsening when respondents also had satellite reception.

In traditional broadcasts, users can only use their TV-set in a passive static way and are not able to interact. “The limited introduction of DTTV and interactive-TV to date appears to present classic cases of failure, or at least false starts, in the introduction of new technologies. Consumer disinterest and resistance have been particularly strong.”² Most viewers would be more interested in the programming that they can receive rather than in the form of transmission, while the issue of whether old ‘hardware’ could continue to be used is always present.

Over the last five broadcasting years, the Authority had practically to change/adopt this part of the assessment every year, especially with the increase of multiple household TV-sets. Once the possibility of multiple-replies was implemented in the assessment in October-December 2009, the percentage of people with multiple platforms has increased from 133.29% to 160.84% - see Table and Figure below.

The dramatic change experienced during the April-June 2010 quarter between the service providers Melita and GO prompted the N.S.O./Authority to ask the interviewed consumers a more direct question: “Do you have Melita installed at home?” and “Do you have GO installed at home?” – rather than a technical description of the system used.

The key to acquiring and maintaining pay-TV subscriptions is through the acquisition of strategic programming, especially movies and sports³. There has been heavy competition between local pay-TV service providers and the loss/acquisition of rights for the FIFA World Cup Championship 2010 proves this [April-June 2010]. This event and its viewer expectation prompted not only a transfer between service providers but also an increase in the usage of free-to-air aerials: from 12.83% in July-September 2009 to 33.82% for April-June 2010.

Similarly for satellite dish systems: the acquisition of sports rights has also prompted an increase in such systems from 17.39% in October-December 2009 to the highest of 25.89% for the same period in 2010. And lately, there was also a steady increase in the use of Internet, which also includes the use of a Dreambox decoder and which has levelled off at 19.44%.

Multiple responses by consumers not only lend themselves to multiple-use analysis of the available platforms but also the extent of use of such systems. The percentage of viewers

¹ Taisto Hujanen, 2005: Implications for Public Service Broadcasters, pg 63; in Allan Brown and Robert G. Picard (Ed.), Digital Terrestrial Television in Europe, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers, London

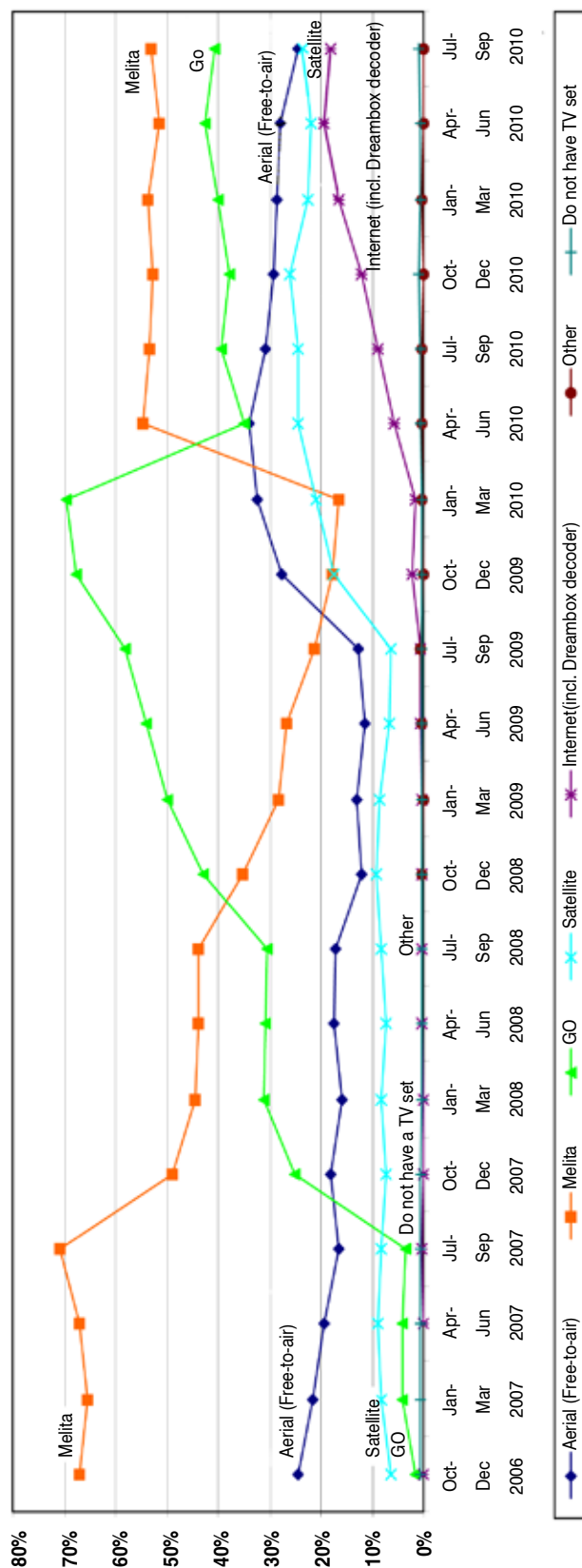
² Robert G. Picard, 2005: A Consumer Perspective on Digital Terrestrial and Interactive Television, pg. 144 in Allan Brown and Robert G. Picard (Ed.), Digital Terrestrial Television in Europe, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers, London

³ Humphreya, Peter & Matthias Land, 1998; Digital television between the economy and pluralism, pp. 9-35 in Jeanette Steemers (Ed.), *Changing Channels: The Prospects for Television in a Digital World*, Luton University Press

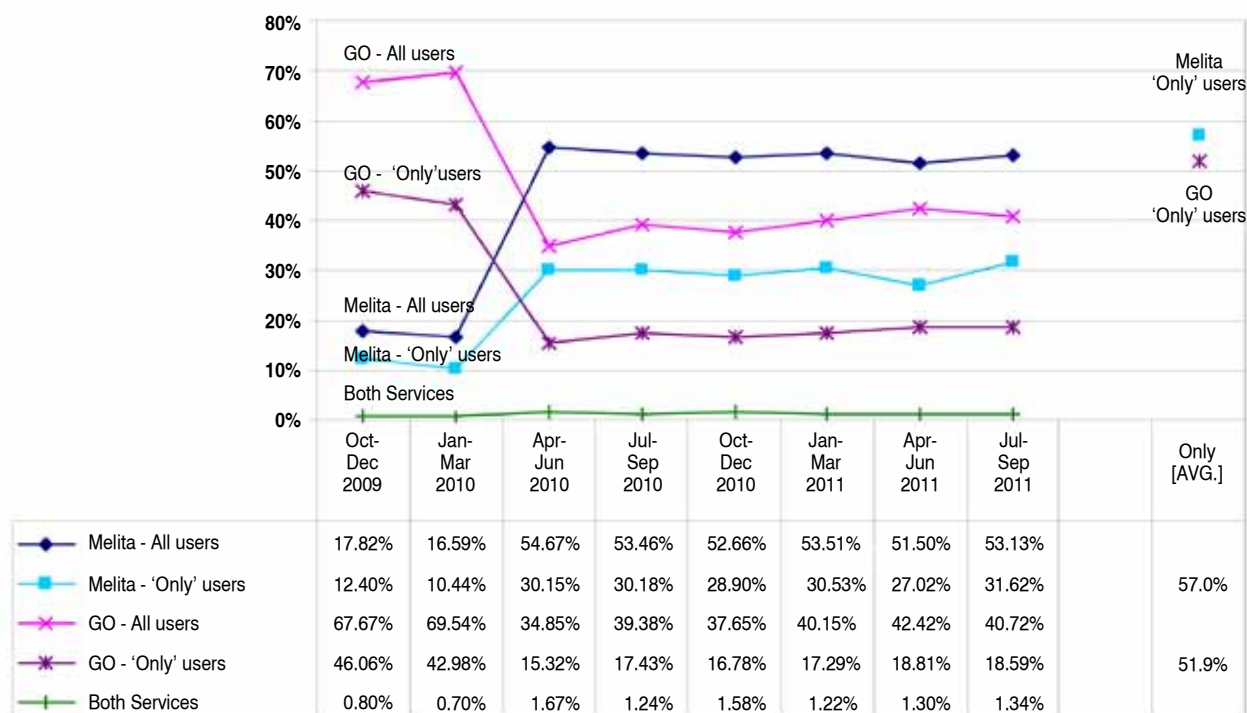
TV Reception Systems

	Oct-Dec 2006	Jan-Mar 2007	Apr-Jun 2007	Jul-Sep 2007	Oct-Dec 2007	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Jul-Sep 2008	Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Apr-Jun 2009	Jul-Sep 2009	Oct-Dec 2009	Jan-Mar 2010	Apr-Jun 2010	Jul-Sep 2010	Oct-Dec 2010	Jan-Mar 2011	Apr-Jun 2011	Jul-Sep 2011
1	24.29%	21.74%	19.36%	16.44%	18.11%	15.95%	17.54%	17.05%	11.99%	13.04%	11.31%	12.83%	27.73%	32.34%	33.82%	30.64%	29.16%	28.48%	27.89%	24.36%
2	66.85%	65.33%	67.04%	70.89%	48.87%	44.47%	43.85%	43.76%	35.10%	28.15%	26.81%	21.41%	17.82%	16.59%	54.67%	53.46%	52.66%	53.51%	51.50%	53.13%
3	1.64%	4.01%	4.09%	3.56%	25.18%	30.96%	30.84%	30.38%	42.94%	49.69%	53.89%	58.22%	67.67%	69.54%	34.85%	39.38%	37.65%	40.15%	42.42%	40.72%
4	6.35%	8.25%	8.74%	8.22%	7.29%	8.28%	7.15%	8.13%	9.21%	8.45%	6.78%	6.28%	17.39%	20.97%	24.60%	24.47%	25.89%	22.62%	22.01%	23.51%
5	0.11%	0.11%	0.22%	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	0.28%	0.23%	0.22%	0.34%	0.61%	0.49%	2.10%	1.63%	5.59%	8.96%	12.04%	16.60%	19.44%	18.13%
6									0.16%	0.11%	0.17%	0.49%	0.15%	0.17%	0.45%	0.22%	0.00%	0.25%	0.06%	0.11%
7	0.77%	0.67%	0.66%	0.67%	0.50%	0.28%	0.34%	0.45%	0.38%	0.22%	0.44%	0.27%	0.43%	0.37%	0.77%	0.65%	0.96%	0.73%	0.57%	0.88%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	133.29%	141.61%	154.75%	157.77%	158.36%	162.34%	163.89%	160.84%

	Aerial (Analogue)	Aerial (Analogue) Cable (not digital)	Digital Aerial (Multiplus/Cable)	Aerial (Analogue) Cable (not digital)	Digital Aerial (Multiplus/Cable)	Multiple replies accepted	Aerial (Free-to-air)
1	Aerial (Analogue)	Aerial (Analogue) Cable (not digital)	Digital Aerial (Multiplus/Cable)	Aerial (Analogue) Cable (not digital)	Digital Aerial (Multiplus/Cable)	Multiple replies accepted	Aerial (Free-to-air)
2	Cable						Melita
3	Digital Aerial (Multiplus)						GO
4	Satellite						Satellite
5	Internet						Internet (incl. Dreambox decoder)
6							Other
7	Do not have a TV set	Do not have a TV set	Do not have a TV set	Do not have a TV set	Do not have a TV set	Do not have a TV set	Do not have a TV set



'Melita' and 'GO' users



having both services installed has doubled for the quarter April-June 2010 over the previous assessment period to 1.67% and has maintained that same level. On the other hand, the number of viewers who depend **only** on one service provider constitute about 50% of that service's total users [57% for Melita and 51.9% for GO] – see Figure below.

Although the use of such platforms seems to have stabilized during the past six broadcasting quarters, it is important to point out that both the service providers [Melita and GO] heavily advertise on-demand television services which were started towards the end of 2011.

On the other hand, with the advent of digital radio the Broadcasting Authority started monitoring the use of radio platforms during the period October-December 2008, with multiple replies being acceptable from the following year 2009. The number of respondents who stated that they do not have a radio system at home has drastically gone down over the past two broadcasting seasons to an average 6% of the population. Digital Radio, on the other hand seems to have followed the same “false” start found with television platforms – see Figure below. FM platform users still rank high with an average of 86.88% for July-September 2011, 10.38% use Digital Radio, while 18.1% use other platforms as Internet for listening to their favourite radio station. Of all the responses received, 22.56% of the population have more than one system installed.

However, analysing the responses received, there is a downward trend of the number of FM ‘Only’ users and while 86.3% of ‘All’ FM users rely only on that platform for their

reception, 43.9% of ‘All’ Digital users rely solely on that platform. The number of listeners who would use ‘other’ systems has also shown a dramatic increase from 2.42% in October-December 2009 to 18.1% in July-September 2011, indicating that radio listeners are also opting for radio services on the Internet – see Figure below.

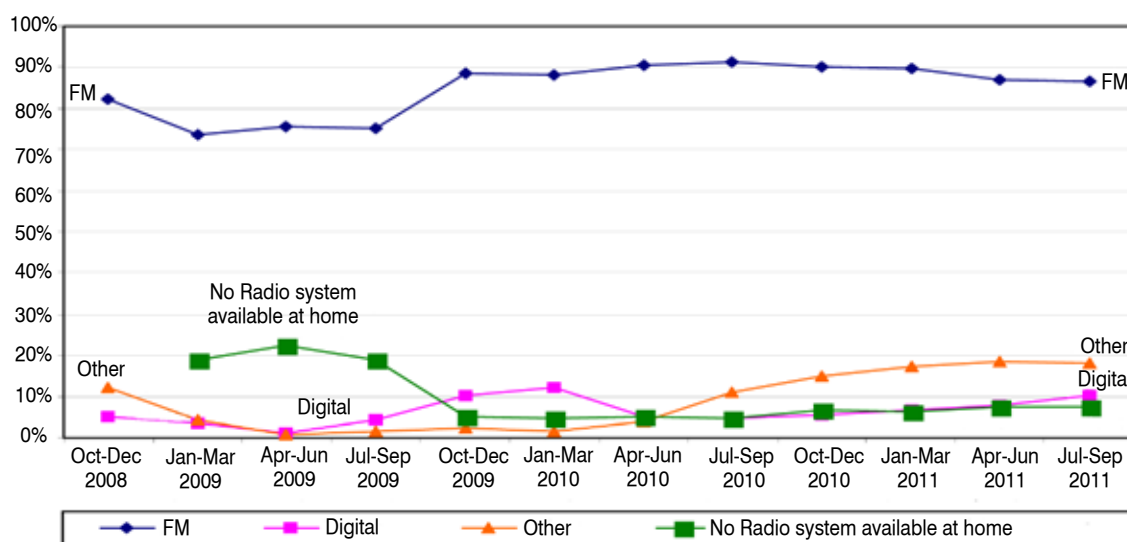
7.4 Teleshopping

In traditional television advertising, viewers are subjected to commercials during standard commercial breaks [including teleshopping breaks]. This is with the expectation that the viewers will notice/remember the product and its brand, and will eventually buy the product. Conversely, when the viewer or consumer actively accesses information about commercial products and services, broadcasters have to attract the viewers' attention and generate specific responses through interactivity - home shopping turns the television set into a ‘virtual shopping mall’ through the use of the set-top box and teleshopping channels.

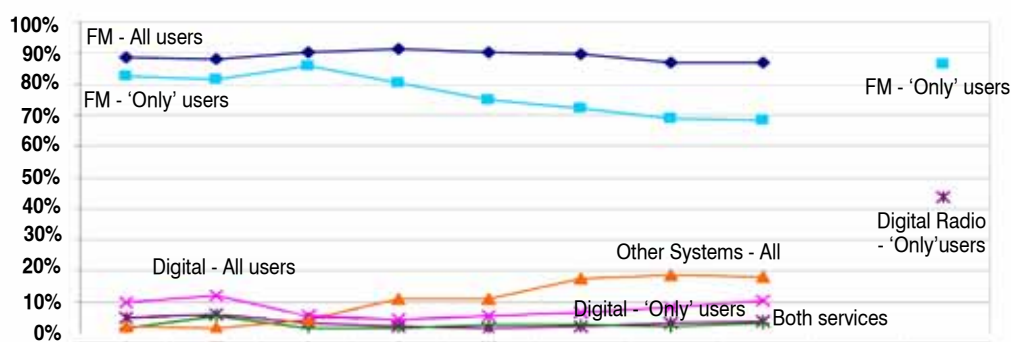
To date this interactivity is still restricted through the use of a second platform such as the telephone, e-mail, web chat, web-links, and SMSs. Such interactive programming requires these interfaces as a return path to live television programming. Television broadcasters have embraced text messaging to enhance their programmes with viewers' voting, viewers' messages, and communicating with each other. This also allows for ‘direct impulsive purchase’ of products and services while the advert/programme is still on air.

Radio Reception Systems

	Oct-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Apr-Jun 2009	Jul-Sep 2009	Oct-Dec 2009	Jan-Mar 2010	Apr-Jun 2010	Jul-Sep 2010	Oct-Dec 2010	Jan-Mar 2011	Apr-Jun 2011	Jul-Sep 2011
FM	82.40%	73.64%	75.57%	75.20%	88.74%	88.11%	90.41%	91.29%	90.03%	89.60%	86.96%	86.68%
Digital	5.23%	3.41%	1.21%	4.37%	10.10%	12.22%	5.24%	4.60%	5.55%	6.59%	7.94%	10.38%
Other	12.37%	4.14%	.72%	1.64%	2.42%	1.72%	4.11%	11.13%	14.91%	17.39%	18.41%	18.10%
No Radio system		18.80%	22.50%	18.79%	5.22%	4.61%	5.10%	4.71%	6.69%	6.36%	7.36%	7.40%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	106.48%	106.67%	104.86%	111.73%	117.18%	119.95%	120.67%	122.56%
Multiple replies accepted												



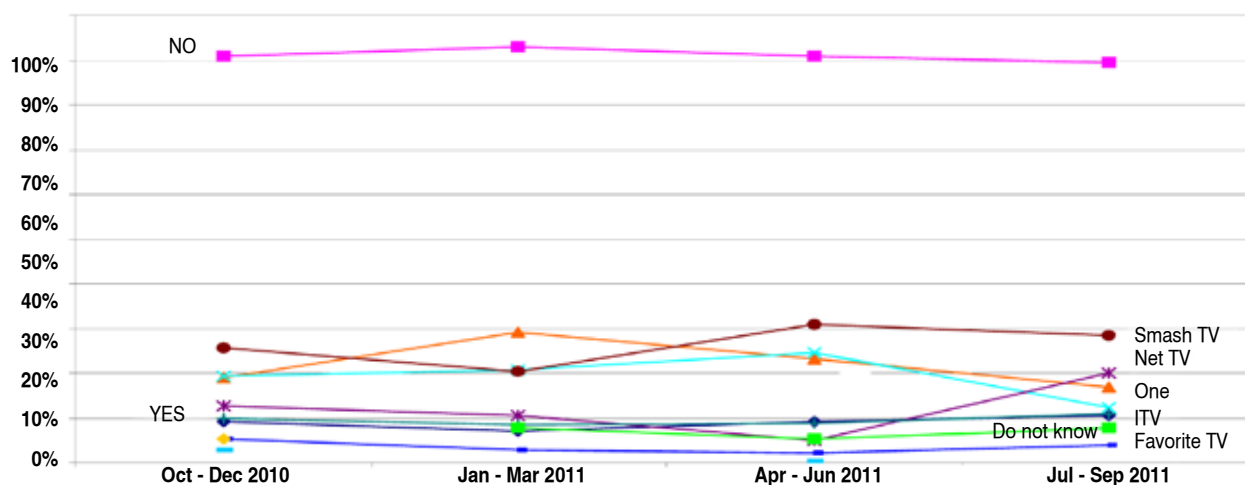
FM, Digital and 'Other' users



	Oct-Dec 2009	Jan-Mar 2010	Apr-Jun 2010	Jul-Sep 2010	Oct-Dec 2010	Jan-Mar 2011	Apr-Jun 2011	Jul-Sep 2011		Only [AVG.]
FM - All users	88.74%	88.12%	90.41%	91.29%	90.03%	89.60%	86.96%	86.68%		
FM - 'Only' users	82.47%	81.68%	85.72%	80.15%	74.63%	72.09%	69.01%	68.37%		86.3%
Digital - All users	10.10%	12.22%	5.24%	4.60%	5.55%	6.59%	7.94%	10.38%		
Digital - 'Only' users	5.17%	6.28%	3.43%	2.24%	1.64%	1.97%	3.08%	3.69%		43.9%
Both services	1.45%	5.67%	1.64%	1.60%	2.62%	2.50%	2.21%	3.23%		
Other Systems - All	2.42%	1.74%	4.11%	11.13%	11.13%	17.39%	18.41%	18.10%		

Teleshopping by Broadcasting Station by Quarter [Oct/Dec 2010 – Jul/Sep 2011]

	Oct-Dec 2010		Jan-Mar 2011		Apr-Jun 2011		Jul-Sep 2011		Yrly. Avg.	
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	9.24	33,163	7.09	25,999	9.2	34,114	10.4	38,552	8.99	32,957
No	90.76	325,834	92.91	340,504	90.8	335,602	89.6	331,663	91.01	
	100%	358,997	100%	366,503	100%	369,716	100%	370,215	100%	
TVM	[3]18.83	6,243	[1]29.18	7,586	[3]23.14	7,892	[3]16.94	6,529	[2]22.02	7,063
ONE	[2]19.44	6,448	[2]20.77	5,399	[2]24.56	8,379	[4]12.36	4,764	[3]19.28	6,248
Net TV	[4]12.52	4,151	[4]10.54	2,740	[4] 4.96	1,691	[2]19.86	7,657	[4]11.97	4,060
Smash TV	[1]25.59	8,487	[3]20.41	5,307	[1]30.78	10,499	[1]28.58	11,018	[1]26.34	8,828
iTV	9.96	3,303	8.48	2,205	8.95	3,052	10.78	4,158	9.54	3,180
Favourite TV	5.34	1,769	2.93	761	1.96	670	3.71	1,432	3.48	1,158
Calypso Music TV	2.91	965			0.49	169			0.85	284
Other									1.35	0
Do not know	5.41	1,795	7.69	2,000	5.16	1,761	7.77	2,996	5.16	2,138
	100%	33,163	100%	25,999	100%	34,114	100%	38,552	100%	32,957



Again, the Authority wanted to research teleshopping originating from the Maltese Islands. Respondents were asked whether they regularly watch teleshopping and on which channel. Teleshopping programmes are aired on local broadcasting stations, generally during the day off-peak hours. To-date there are two TV-channels dedicated to 24/7 Teleshopping: iTV and Prime TV Shopping Channel which started broadcasts in August, 2011.

During this broadcasting season the total yearly average of respondents stating that they regularly watch teleshopping programmes stands at 8.99% and on average, more than 91% of the population do not follow them regularly. Overall,

teleshopping was viewed most on Smash TV [26.34%], followed by TVM [22.02%] and ONE [19.28%]. The dedicated teleshopping channel iTV registered only an average of 9.54% - see Table and Figure below.

Females follow more teleshopping than the male audience in the ratio of 2½:1: 12.79% of all females stated that they regularly watch teleshopping against 5.14% of all males. While more teleshopping is watched by those over 50 years old, of note are the children aged 12-14 [5.03%] who stated that they regularly watch teleshopping, a higher percentage than their older peers 15-24 year olds at 3.30%.

	Gender			Age Groups						
	Total	Male	Female	12-14	15-24	25-29	30-49	50-64	65-79	80+
Oct-Dec2010	9.24	4.66	13.78	6.88	3.13	9.27	6.20	9.67	21.44	21.27
Jan-Mar 2011	7.09	3.36	10.77	4.67	1.95	4.47	5.36	9.07	14.34	9.98
Apr-Jun 2011	9.23	5.14	13.23	3.60	2.70	5.05	7.54	12.78	15.45	19.61
Jul-Sep 2011	10.41	7.39	13.37	4.97	5.42	6.43	7.48	14.91	16.96	17.02
Avg %	8.99	5.14	12.79	5.03	3.30	6.30	6.64	11.61	17.05	16.97

7.5 TV Programme Preferences

Respondents for this assessment were asked what their three favourite programmes were, well knowing that TV-viewers find it easier to indicate three programmes than to identify the genre of their favourite programmes. Besides, most locally produced programmes could easily fall into more than one genre of programmes.

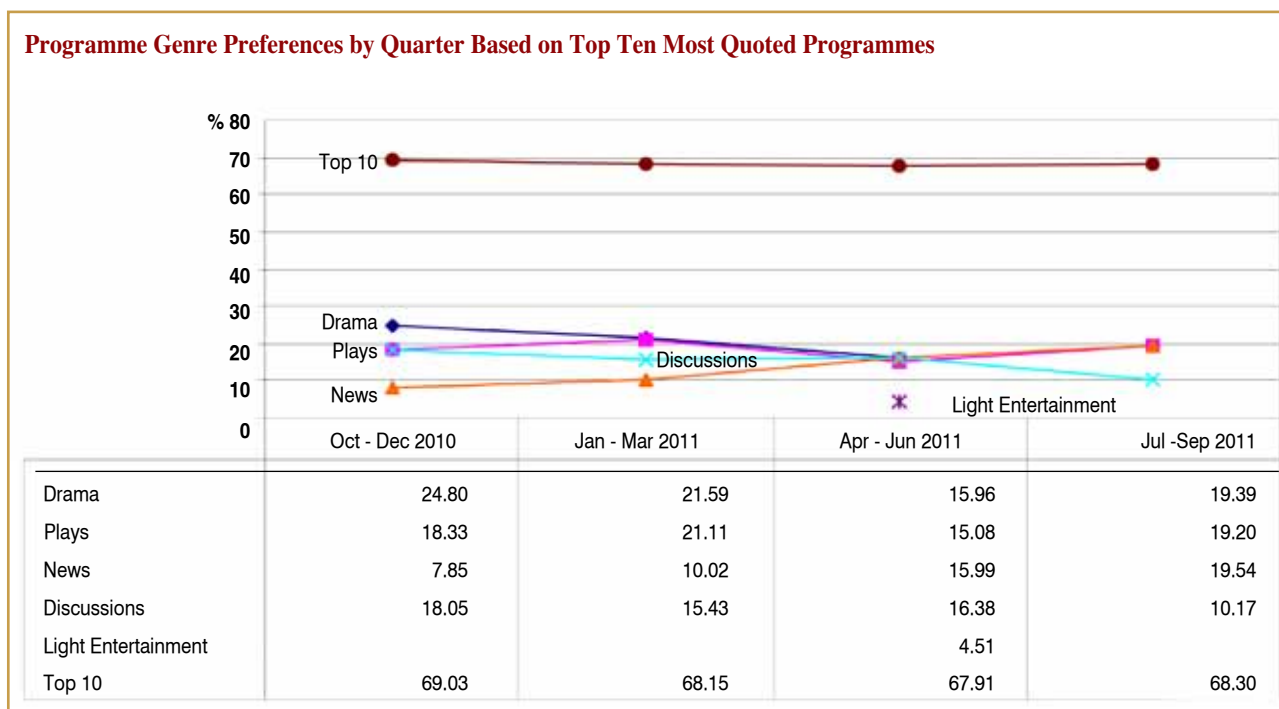
All the programmes named each quarter were analysed and the ten most quoted programmes in each quarter were classified under five programme genres which included:

- Drama which consists of such programmes as F'Salib it-Toroq; Emilja, Rubini, and Rih Isfel – all local dramatic productions;
- Plays: Deċeduti; Simpatiči; Rubini; and KC – sitcoms with a flavour for light entertainment;
- Discussion programmes: Xarabank; Affari Taghna; Dissett and Bondi Plus;

- Light entertainment: Liquorish
- Main News Bulletins of TVM, ONE, and Net TV.

On average, the list of top ten most quoted programmes got 68% of all named programmes in each quarter with drama and sitcoms ranking nearly always first and second respectively, followed by discussion programmes and the main news bulletins – see Figure below. The analysis of the preferences by demographics is listed in Figure 8 below.

In general, news and discussion programmes were the most preferred programmes by males while drama and plays were the most preferred by females. Children [12-14 year olds] had on average the highest percentage of programme preferences with the exception of April-June which is normally associated with exam periods, while the percentage for children's preferences was slightly exceeded during July-September by those over 80 years old.



Top Ten Programme Preferences by Demographics

	Total	Male	Female	12-14	15-24	25-29	30-49	50-64	65-79	80+	South Harbour	North Harbour	South East	Western	Northern	Gozo & Comino
Oct-Dec 2010																
Drama	140,821	46,001	94,821	9,768	25,333	6,740	41,644	39,594	14,905	2,837	36,198	38,266	19,902	17,533	17,962	10,962
Plays	104,066	40,158	63,908	18,378	22,395	5,082	29,383	18,619	8,106	2,104	21,846	32,146	12,484	14,090	15,872	7,628
News	44,545	24,721	19,824	884	3,888	1,911	16,481	12,765	7,443	1,173	4,677	17,031	5,220	6,423	7,942	3,254
Discussion	102,459	59,383	43,075	1,626	15,898	6,601	43,743	24,056	9,618	918	18,336	30,409	14,417	18,806	14,273	6,219
Top Ten [n]	391,891	170,263	221,628	30,656	67,514	20,334	131,251	95,034	40,072	7,032	81,057	117,852	52,023	56,852	56,049	28,063
All Responses	567,735	253,270	314,465	36,052	88,997	30,918	179,289	148,391	70,908	13,181	115,628	167,700	82,572	80,289	83,233	38,313
Drama	24.80	18.16	30.15	27.09	28.47	21.80	23.23	26.68	21.02	21.52	31.31	22.82	24.10	21.84	21.58	28.61
Plays	18.33	15.86	20.32	50.98	25.16	16.44	16.39	12.55	11.43	15.96	18.89	19.17	15.12	17.55	19.07	19.91
News	7.85	9.76	6.30	2.45	4.37	6.18	9.19	8.60	10.50	8.90	4.04	10.16	6.32	8.00	9.54	8.49
Discussion	18.05	23.45	13.70	4.51	17.86	21.35	24.40	16.21	13.56	6.96	15.86	18.13	17.46	23.42	17.15	16.23
Top Ten [%]	69.03	67.23	70.48	85.03	75.86	65.77	73.21	64.04	56.51	53.35	70.10	70.28	63.00	70.81	67.34	73.25
Jan/Mar 2011																
Drama	131,742	42,715	89,027	9,728	21,628	5,704	40,312	32,661	20,103	1,606	27,629	36,009	22,946	16,721	18,147	10,288
Plays	128,797	47,727	81,070	21,642	25,458	6,051	41,901	22,623	10,806	316	26,971	34,654	20,302	17,628	18,717	10,524
News	61,112	38,338	22,774	764	4,035	2,185	21,601	18,330	12,061	2,136	8,394	21,152	8,098	9,980	8,221	5,267
Discussion	94,148	45,326	48,823	3,854	17,033	4,353	36,417	21,510	9,554	1,429	17,130	29,986	14,414	13,358	13,540	5,721
Top Ten [n]	415,799	174,106	241,694	35,988	68,154	18,293	140,231	95,124	52,524	5,487	80,124	121,801	65,760	57,687	58,625	31,800
All Replies	610,098	260,142	349,956	43,279	88,345	23,989	197,122	154,251	93,810	9,303	123,488	181,208	94,774	83,912	83,001	43,715
Drama	21.59	16.42	25.44	22.48	24.48	23.78	20.45	21.17	21.43	17.26	22.37	19.87	24.21	19.93	21.86	23.53
Plays	21.11	18.35	23.17	50.01	28.82	25.22	21.26	14.67	11.52	3.40	21.84	19.12	21.42	21.01	22.55	24.07
News	10.02	14.74	6.51	1.77	4.57	9.11	10.96	11.88	12.86	22.96	6.80	11.67	8.54	11.89	9.90	12.05
Discussion	15.43	17.42	13.95	8.90	19.28	18.15	18.47	13.94	10.18	15.36	13.87	16.55	15.21	15.92	16.31	13.09
Top Ten [%]	68.15	66.93	69.06	83.15	77.15	76.25	71.14	61.67	55.99	58.98	64.88	67.22	69.39	68.75	70.63	72.74
Apr/Jun 2011																
Drama	86,962	25,514	61,450	7,298	14,963	4,951	23,880	22,494	11,690	1,687	19,071	23,003	12,969	13,483	11,253	7,183
Plays	82,165	26,993	55,172	7,253	12,131	4,445	25,803	22,664	8,496	1,374	18,761	23,020	9,252	10,778	12,304	8,049
News	87,120	53,347	33,773	1,488	6,151	3,704	26,702	26,517	14,953	7,607	17,594	26,386	11,189	11,892	12,107	7,950
Discussion	89,216	39,579	49,637	4,822	14,999	5,962	31,903	18,098	11,699	1,732	18,806	27,111	12,787	12,733	10,554	7,224
Light Ent.	24,553	8,607	15,947	3,387	7,462	1,442	8,777	2,843	642	0	5,228	6,374	4,217	3,564	3,578	1,594
Top Ten [n]	370,016	154,040	215,979	24,248	55,706	20,504	117,065	92,616	47,480	12,400	79,460	105,894	50,414	52,450	49,796	32,000
All Replies	544,824	225,964	318,860	36,200	79,471	29,119	165,526	143,733	72,884	17,892	118,152	155,975	81,883	78,240	69,446	41,128
Drama	15.96	11.29	19.27	20.16	18.83	17.00	14.43	15.65	16.04	9.43	16.14	14.75	15.84	17.23	16.20	17.46
Plays	15.08	11.95	17.30	20.04	15.26	15.26	15.59	15.77	11.66	7.68	15.88	14.76	11.30	13.78	17.72	19.57
News	15.99	23.61	10.59	4.11	7.74	12.72	16.13	18.45	20.52	42.52	14.89	16.92	13.66	15.20	17.43	19.33
Discussion	16.38	17.52	15.57	13.32	18.87	20.47	19.27	12.59	16.05	9.68	15.92	17.38	15.62	16.27	15.20	17.56
Light Ent.	4.51	3.81	5.00	9.36	9.39	4.95	5.30	1.98	0.88	0.00	4.42	4.09	5.15	4.56	5.15	3.88
Top Ten [%]	67.91	68.17	67.73	66.98	70.10	70.41	70.72	64.44	65.15	69.31	67.25	67.89	61.57	67.04	71.71	77.81
Jul/Sep 2011																
Drama	93,892	30,270	63,621	5,438	12,384	8,019	26,630	26,078	13,917	1,429	22,334	26,210	14,319	12,799	12,656	5,576
Plays	92,977	33,071	59,907	9,064	17,862	4,641	30,394	19,487	9,423	2,108	20,266	26,253	14,131	11,201	14,536	6,590
News	94,659	56,630	38,028	1,437	5,344	2,673	30,040	36,273	13,130	5,761	17,124	24,904	14,680	13,296	16,868	7,784
Discussion	49,267	25,501	23,766	3,049	5,233	3,441	21,660	11,622	3,297	966	9,640	13,933	5,357	7,098	9,687	3,552
Top Ten [n]	330,795	145,472	185,322	18,988	40,823	18,774	108,724	93,460	39,767	10,264	69,364	91,300	48,487	44,394	53,747	23,502
All Replies	484,318	212,825	271,493	26,768	61,110	27,783	161,025	135,046	58,249	14,336	106,248	134,181	70,472	64,457	75,756	33,204
Drama	19.39	14.22	23.43	20.32	20.27	28.86	16.54	19.31	23.89	9.97	21.02	19.53	20.32	19.86	16.71	16.79
Plays	19.20	15.54	22.07	33.86	29.23	16.70	18.88	14.43	16.18	14.70	19.07	19.57	20.05	17.38	19.19	19.85
News	19.54	26.61	14.01	5.37	8.74	9.62	18.66	26.86	22.54	40.19	16.12	18.56	20.83	20.63	22.27	23.44
Discussion	10.17	11.98	8.75	11.39	8.56	12.39	13.45	8.61	5.66	6.74	9.07	10.38	7.60	11.01	12.79	10.70
Top Ten [%]	68.30	68.35	68.26	70.94	66.80	67.57	67.52	69.21	68.27	71.60	65.29	68.04	68.80	68.87	70.95	70.78

Analysed by broadcasting station, programmes broadcast on TVM were the most quoted programmes with an average of 60.61%, followed by those broadcast on ONE with an average of 22.54%; and those on Net TV with an average of 15.27%.

All these programmes are prime-time broadcasts after the main news bulletins of 20:30; while the following programmes even ranked within the top ten during the summer months when a great percentage of the schedule consisted of programme re-runs: Xarabank, F'Salib it-Toroq; Deċeduti; KC; Rubini; Emilja; and Simpatici. The number of re-runs and repeats during day-time hours in the summer schedules was quite noticeable, considering that broadcasting stations broadcast an average of 6 ½ hrs of same-day programmes during the night. In fact, during the summer months Education 22 and Calypso TV had on average 85.42% of 24/7 broadcast time dedicated to same-day repeats during night hours, re-runs of whole programme series, and telesshopping. These stations were followed by ONE [71.13%]; Net TV [62.35%]; Smash TV [60.87%]; Favourite Channel [58.48%]; and TVM [58.39%] respectively.

7.6 Children and Young Adults

“The debate about children and media violence is really a debate about other things, many of which have very little to do with the media ...; it invokes deep-seated moral and political conviction, and it is rooted in people’s unsettling experiences of social change ...; *is* about the decline of the family and of organised religion, about the changing nature of literacy and contemporary culture ...”⁴

When trying to understand the level of violence in society, especially violent actions committed by teens and young adults, various factors have to be taken into consideration such as the accessibility of weapons, family status, as well as peer pressures and emotional factors. “Television and other media are just possible factors”.⁵

It is not a question of simply increasing controls. “To construct a meaningful alternative, it is required to start with parents and children: their ability to make their own decisions about what is appropriate has to be respected and supported. A positive *educational* strategy is more apt than a negative strategy based on censorship”.⁶

In the quarterly report published by the Broadcasting Authority, the consumption of television by 12-14 years olds is monitored; however, 15-17 year olds are grouped with the next age group of 15-24 year olds. For this report, this latter group was divided into three sub-groups: 15-17 year olds; 18-20 year olds; and 21-24 year olds. This makes it possible to analyse the consumption of two groups of children and two groups of young adults.

In all cases, those under 24 years old watch more foreign stations than local stations – the highest percentage being reached by those young adults of 21-24 years old for the summer period [74.03%] being followed by 12-14 year olds [73.54%] during the same period. Of the 12-14 year olds, the highest period in which TV-viewing was followed was in January-March; for 15-17 years old and 18-20 years old the highest number was during April-June; while the highest of 21-24 year olds was July-September – see Table and Figure below.

The number of local stations viewed by these age groups tended to increase during the summer months with 12-14 year olds viewing five local stations during July-September. However, the number of foreign stations ranged from 11 stations for this same group to 20 different stations for the 21-24 year olds during April-June.

The most followed station of 12-14 year olds was TVM, attaining its highest audiences for this group at prime time after the main news bulletin, while the Disney Channel was the second most followed channel for this group followed by Discovery Channel and Italia 1.

For 15-17 year olds, again TVM was the most watched channel for the first three quarters of the broadcasting season while ONE was the most followed station during the summer months. The most popular foreign station with this group was Italia 1 from October-December 2010 to April-June 2011 while their attention for the summer months turned to the Disney Channel. Discovery Channel ranked third followed by MTV and the Food Network.

For young adults aged 18-20 years old, again TVM was the most viewed station during the same period from October to June while ONE was the most followed station during the summer months, the second most followed in October-December and the third most followed in January-March 2011. Of the foreign stations, Italia 1 ranked first, second for two broadcasting seasons from January to June while the Discovery Channel ranked second during the summer months and third during October-December 2010 and April-June 2011.

Similarly, TV-viewing of 21-24 years olds was highest for TVM for the first three quarters of the broadcasting season with Discovery Channel ranking first and Italia 1 ranking second during the summer months. ONE ranked the second most viewed station for this group during April-June 2011 while Italia 1 ranked second from October 2010 to March 2011. Canale 5 was the third most followed station for this group for the same months. ONE was the third most followed station for this group during the summer months from July to September 2011.

⁴ David Buckingham, 1997; *Electronic child abuse? Rethinking the media's effects on children*; pg 38 in “Ill Effects – the media/violence debate” [Ed.] Martin Barker and Julian Petley; Routledge, London

⁵ Nancy Segnorielli, 2005; *Violence in the Media*; pg 22; ABC-CLIO, California

⁶ *ibid*; pg 37

TV viewing by 12-14 year olds and 15-17 year olds after the 9:00 pm watershed was consistently highest from October 2010 to June 2011 especially for local TV broadcasts – see Figure below.

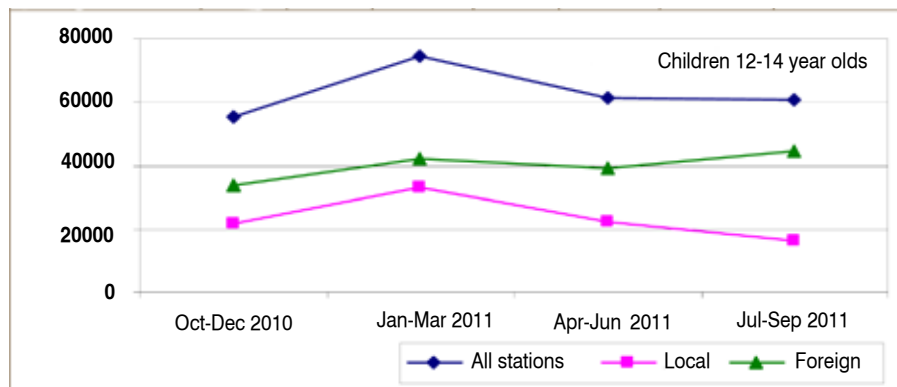
For all the age groups from 12 years to 24 year olds prime time viewing is at normal prime time for adults. TV-viewing by children starts as early as 7:00 am, while dead-hours TV viewing during the night was even registered by 15-17 year olds. The viewing of local children's programmes by 12-14 years olds was highest during January-March 2011, followed by that during the period October-December 2010. The lowest was that during the summer months of July-September where, however, the spread of TV-viewing was more regular for all the time brackets – see Figure below. The same can be said for 15-17 year olds; however, the average of this group during the summer months was lower than those children aged 12-14 years old.

With regard to young adults, the same can be said with regard to prime-time viewing; however, the high peaks attained never exceeded those of 12-14 years olds. TV viewing during the summer months was lower for young adults aged 18-24 than those of children from 12 years to 17 years with the exception of 21-24 year olds whose highest peaks during the summer months were at 8:00 pm while audiences, especially for local stations dropped dramatically by 10:00 pm. The lowest audiences were those of 18-20 year olds during the summer months where the maximum was 2,000 viewers – see Figure below.

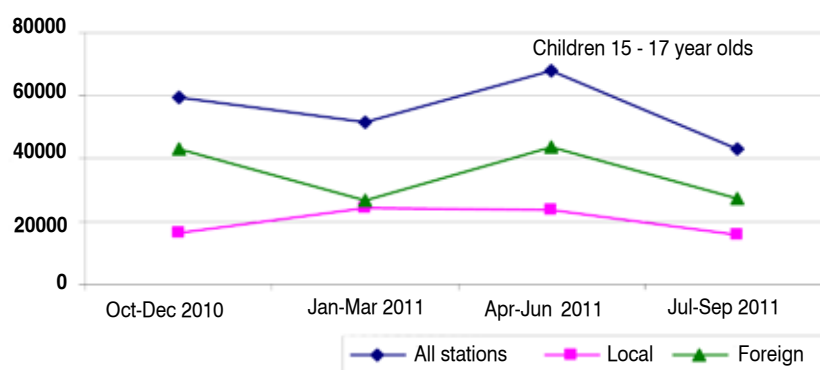
As a concluding remark, of concern is TV viewing by children after the 9:00 pm watershed, especially those aged 12-14 years old and the range of the time of TV viewing starting as early as 7:00 am until midnight. In general, TV viewing of local stations exceeded foreign stations during prime time while TV viewing of foreign stations exceeded local stations during other times of the day and afternoon.

Children and Young Adults: TV Viewing by Quarter and Age Groups

Children: 12-14 year olds	Total [N]	Local [N]	Foreign [N]	Local %	Foreign %	Stations Local [n]	Stations Foreign [n]
Oct-Dec 2010	55,592	21,637	33,955	38.92	61.08	3	11
Jan-Mar 2011	74,824	32,887	41,937	43.95	56.05	3	15
Apr-Jun 2011	61,388	22,411	38,976	36.51	63.49	3	12
Jul-Sep 2011	60,702	16,060	44,641	26.46	73.54	5	14

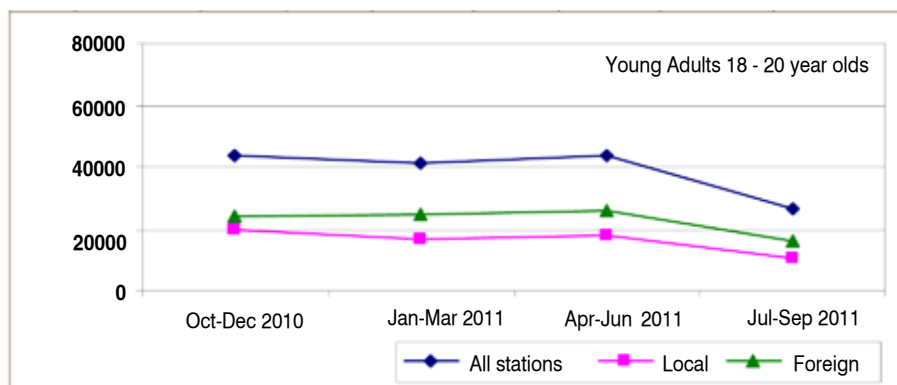


Children: 15-17 year olds	Total [N]	Local [N]	Foreign [N]	Local %	Foreign %	Stations Local [n]	Stations Foreign [n]
Oct-Dec 2010	59,282	16,273	43,009	27.45	72.55	3	16
Jan-Mar 2011	51,364	24,545	26,819	47.79	52.21	3	14
Apr-Jun 2011	67,606	23,892	43,714	35.34	64.66	3	16
Jul-Sep 2011	43,312	15,738	27,574	36.34	63.66	4	15



Children and Young Adults: TV Viewing by Quarter and Age Groups

Young Adults: 18-20 year olds	Total [N]	Local [N]	Foreign [N]	Local %	Foreign %	Stations Local [n]	Stations Foreign [n]
Oct-Dec 2010	43,889	19,596	24,293	44.65	55.35	3	13
Jan-Mar 2011	40,992	16,466	24,526	40.17	59.83	2	14
Apr-Jun 2011	43,655	18,105	25,550	41.47	58.53	3	15
Jul-Sep 2011	26,455	10,552	15,903	39.89	60.11	3	16



Young Adults: 21-24 year olds	Total [N]	Local [N]	Foreign [N]	Local %	Foreign %	Stations Local [n]	Stations Foreign [n]
Oct-Dec 2010	60,628	18,590	42,038	30.66	69.34	3	14
Jan-Mar 2011	54,836	18,171	36,664	33.14	66.86	3	14
Apr-Jun 2011	54,153	25,933	28,220	47.89	52.11	4	20
Jul-Sep 2011	61,940	16,087	45,854	25.97	74.03	4	15

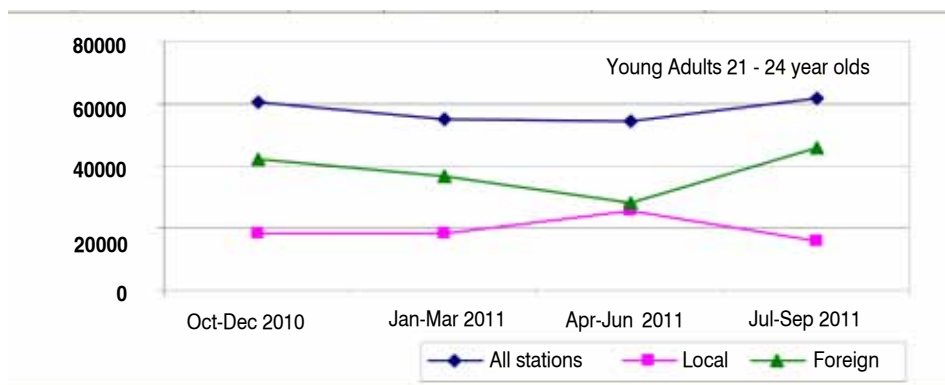
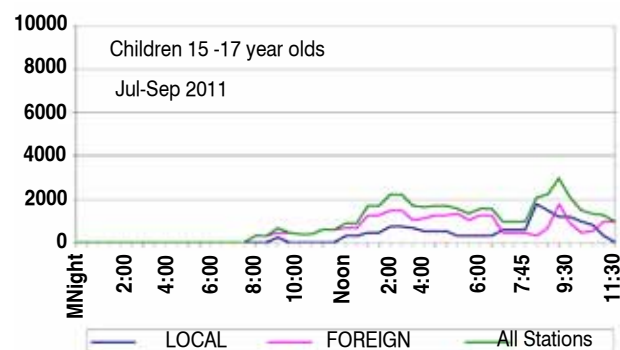
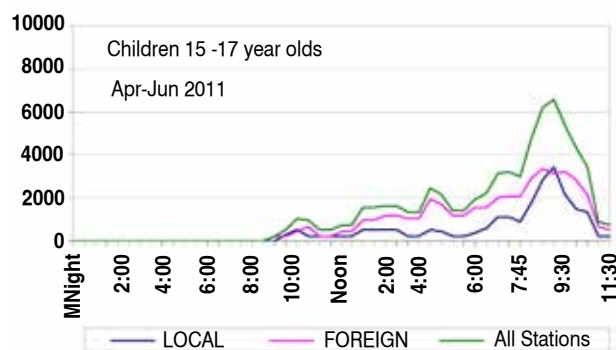
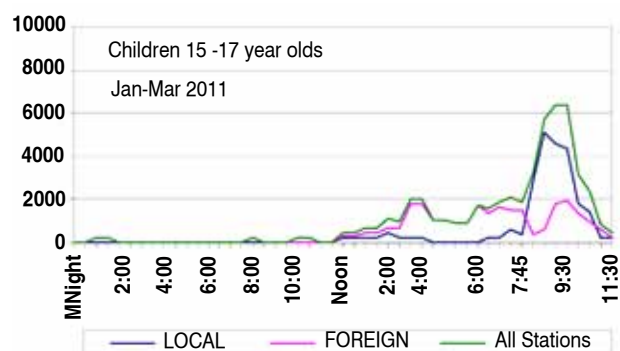
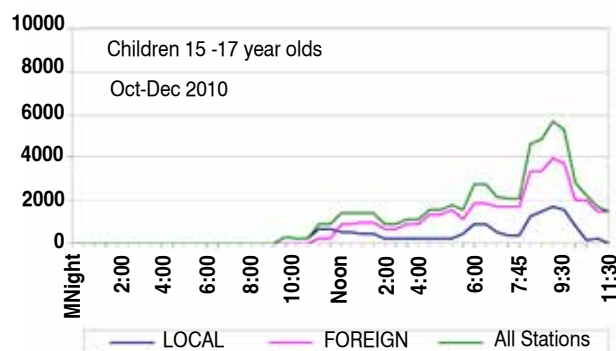
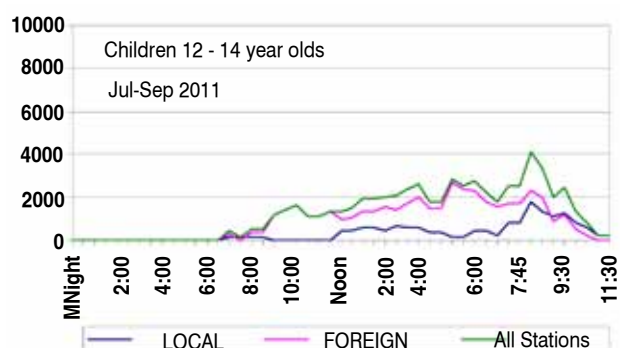
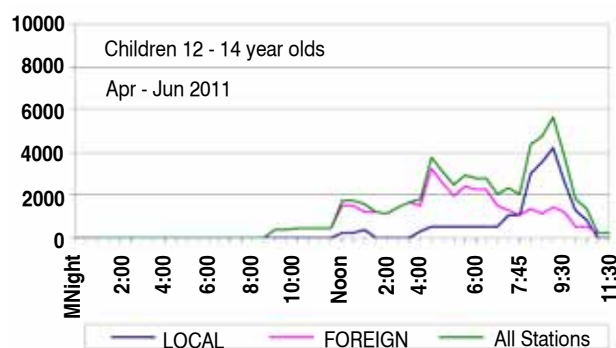
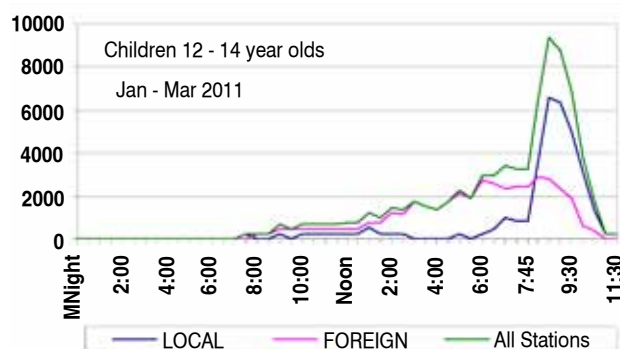
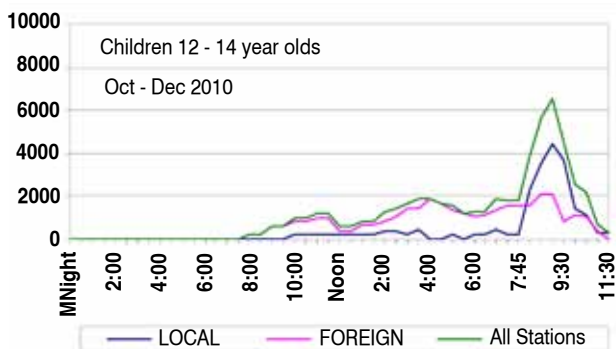
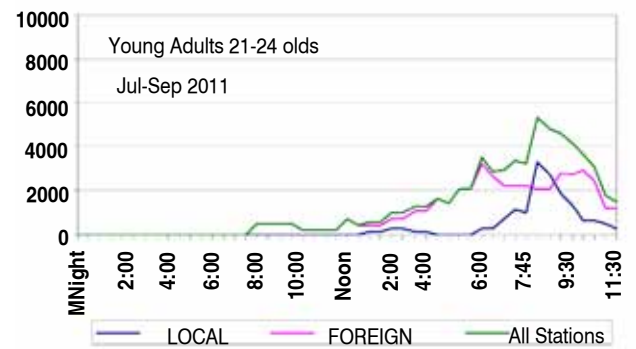
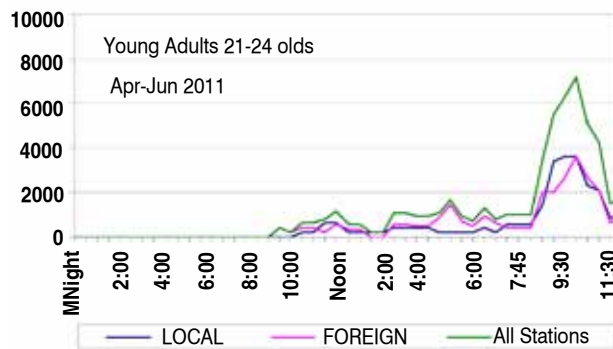
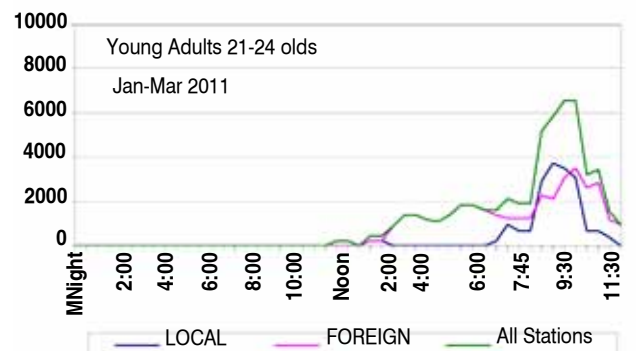
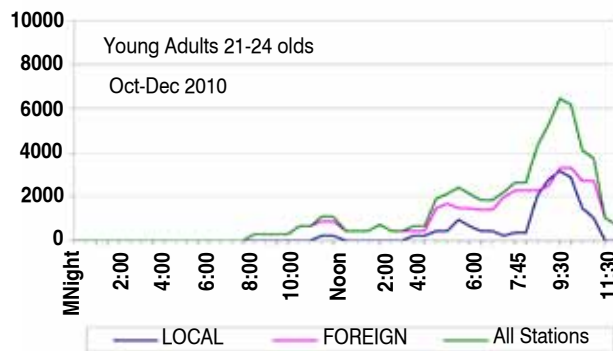
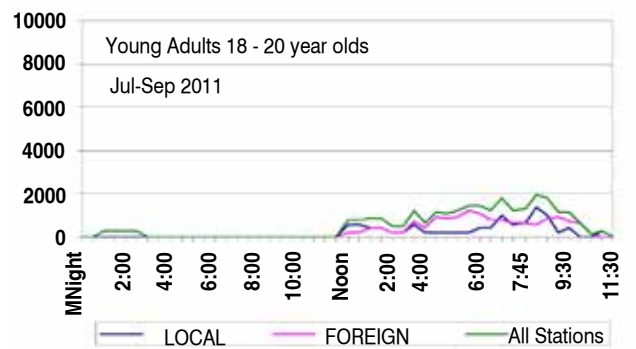
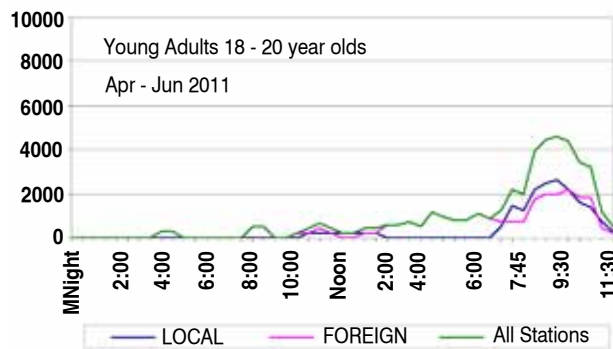
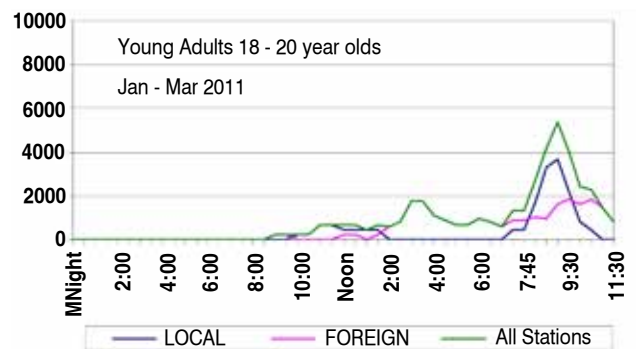
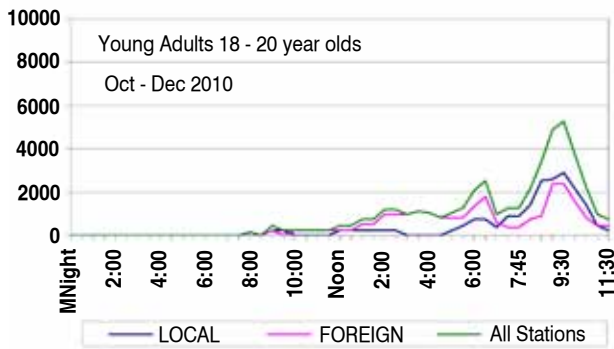


Figure 10: Children 12-14 and 15-17: Audiences by Time Bracket



Young Adults 18-20 and 21-24: Audiences by Time Bracket



8. 50th Anniversary Celebrations

The year in review was indeed special as it marked the 50th anniversary since the the Authority was set up in 1961. To mark this important milestone in its history, the Authority organised a number of activities during the year.

8.1 Visit by The President of the Republic

H.E the President of the Republic Dr George Abela was officially invited to the Authority to unveil a commemorative plaque marking the 50th anniversary of the Authority. On Thursday 29th September, His Excellency visited the offices and met all the employees before unveiling the plaque on the ground floor. This was then blessed by Archbishop Emeritus Giuzeppi Mercieca.

Following the unveiling of the commemorative plaque, the President delivered a speech to employees in which he stressed the need for the Authority's composition to be reviewed to bring it in line with modern day challenges. H.E. the President also invited the Authority and its staff to a visit to his residence at San Anton Palace.

The following is a translation of the speech delivered in Maltese by H.E. The President Dr George Abela on the unveiling of a commemorative plaque marking the 50th anniversary of the Authority

Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority
Members of the Authority
Ladies and Gentlemen

Fifty years represent a long period in the history of a country, particularly as this country has undergone a historical, political, economic and social transformation which has changed it from a colony to an independent state and republic based on the principles of parliamentary democracy and eventually a Member of the European Union. During this time, the means of communication too have developed enormously. Today broadcasting has become more important and its influence on public opinion is greater than ever before. A significant change took place when the State ended its monopoly on broadcasting and new radio and television stations came into existence. Until then, the granting of licences to private stations was limited, mainly due to technical reasons. The introduction of digital terrestrial technology will reduce if not completely eliminate this limitation with the result that we may have a proliferation of new stations.

In a constitutional democracy, broadcasting is essential to inform correctly and objectively and help the citizen form an opinion on political, economic and social matters so that democracy is strengthened. In this context, the Broadcasting

Authority's function is vital to protect the fundamental rights to freedom of thought and expression as well as to safeguard pluralism in order to guarantee fairness, transparency, impartiality and equality in that everybody is given the opportunity to voice an opinion. Another important function of the Broadcasting Authority is the granting of the necessary licences for the setting up of television and radio stations, both public and private. The main role of the Authority, in terms of the Constitution and the Broadcasting Act 1991, is therefore that of regulator to ensure balance and impartiality in controversial political and industrial matters or on matters of current policy and not to prescribe broadcasting content *a priori* i.e. prior to its being broadcast.

It is a fundamental principle that democracy is practised in a way that enables the Maltese citizen to listen to all the different opinions so that he/she can freely decide that which is most persuasive and he/she can then act according to his/her decision, especially when it is time to vote in a general election or referendum. The citizen should listen to all the facets of an argument whether they are strong current opinions or weaker ones which have just been launched. This means that all sides should be given adequate opportunity to communicate their views on the topic being discussed. In other words, the Authority exists to protect the interests of the citizen in taking well informed decisions.



H.E. Dr George Abela, the President of Malta
at the Broadcasting Authority, 29th September 2011



The Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority, Mr Anthony J. Tabone, presenting a donation to the President for the Community Chest Fund

It is the Authority's duty to ensure fairness, impartiality and balance in all local broadcasting. Article 119 of the Constitution stipulates that the Authority is obliged to ensure balance and proper impartiality in matters of political or industrial controversy or on matters of current public policy on all broadcasting media, both public and private, without distinction. But when the Constitution came into being, in reality, Malta only had public broadcasting. On the other hand, the Broadcasting Act 1991 was introduced at a time when private broadcasting stations were starting out, particularly those run by political parties, and this Act differentiates between both forms of broadcasting, imposing greater responsibility on public broadcasting.

The Broadcasting Act considers the matter of balance in two different ways: in the case of public broadcasting, the Authority is obliged to see that balance and impartiality are respected on each public station. With private broadcasting, Article 13 of the Act stipulates that balance is expected, not within each individual station, but within the realm of all private broadcasting stations, that is, with one station balancing another.

This prompts the first question, that being whether this system truly guarantees balance in broadcasting as requested by law. The public stations (including Education 22) are followed by the public in general whereas those controlled by the political parties probably have a majority viewership/listenership consisting of those that belong to one party or another who will therefore absorb unbalanced partisan opinions as they do not follow the station of the opposing party.

Besides this, another point arises regarding the 1991 Broadcasting Act, which is the ordinary law that differentiates between the two forms of broadcasting and imposes a greater onus on public broadcasting, this being as to whether this is compatible with the word and spirit of the Constitution which is the supreme law and which stipulates balance

and impartiality without distinction in the two forms of broadcasting.

When one takes these issues into account, one should also consider the fact that not every political party can financially afford to have its own private station and for this reason, it may be the case that not all opinions are being accorded the same opportunity to be aired. This is not guaranteeing a constant level playing field for all parties which is surely not in the interest of the citizen who has the right to be continually informed on every viewpoint so as to be able to make an informed decision.

This principle of balance also applies to the composition of the Broadcasting Authority which is appointed by the President of Malta on the advice of the Prime Minister who would have consulted the Leader of the Opposition. In practice, although the Constitution does not state this, neither does it exclude it: two representatives are nominated by each of the two big political parties as Members while the Chairman is appointed with the consent of both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, and, if no agreement is reached in this regard, the appointment is in the hands of the Prime Minister. The President acts on the advice of the Prime Minister in these appointments, and has no influence on the decision. When the Authority is called upon to pronounce a verdict, the two Members representing the two parties sometimes vote against each other with the result that the decision becomes solely that of the Chairman. In other words, in practice, decisions are in the end taken by one person only.

I would like to make it clear that in no way do I wish to tarnish the integrity and impartiality of past and present Members of the Authority. But the present system of appointment of Board Members may not appear to be in the best interests of the public but rather in the interests of the two big political parties represented in Parliament and this when the same parties own private broadcasting stations which in itself could

give rise to the question of conflict of interest. This is not an ideal situation in a democratic society based on respect for separation of power where as a constitutional institution, the Authority should not be a partisan instrument and should both be and appear to be independent.

Here one should highlight the turbulent times that the Authority went through over the years and which doubtless it is still facing and will continue to go through (unless it is in some way reformed). It is enough to say that between 1983 and 1986, the Authority was not even constituted and this in breach of the Constitution; I can mention various civil court cases instituted against it and the constant persistent attacks from several quarters. In spite of all the storms it had to weather, the Authority stood fast and is performing its Constitutional duties thanks to the people at the helm, both past and present, as well as its dedicated staff. For this service, which is often not appreciated, I would like to show my appreciation and gratitude in the name of the people of Malta.

In my opinion our maturity as a nation has grown to the extent that, as in the appointment of the President of the country where the fundamental principle was to reach the widest possible consensus, a mechanism should be introduced to make appointments of a constitutional nature under this same principle. In this way the nation would enjoy greater trust in the transparency, impartiality and balance of such

appointments. At this point, political parties, the media, civil society, NGO's and whoever is interested in this matter of national importance should contribute towards reaching this goal.

In my opinion, it is about time that the Select Committee of the House of Representatives which had been set up to recommend constitutional reform and the strengthening of democracy starts meeting again so that fifty years since the Authority was founded and twenty years since the introduction of the Broadcasting Act, those with an interest in broadcasting are consulted and proposals for the necessary changes corresponding to today's needs and fast developments are put forward. One should consider institutional reform, amongst other things, whether the Broadcasting Authority and the Malta Communications Authority should be amalgamated into one authority, as was the case in the UK; how the independence and impartiality of the public service broadcaster should be strengthened; and the future of party political stations after the sixteen-year experience since their introduction.

Whatever happens, what remains important in such a reform is to ensure and to appear to ensure transparency, accountability and ethical correctness, impartiality and fairness in all broadcasting, whether public or private. In this way the right of expression and the interest of each citizen in a democratic society is truly respected and his/her intelligence is not abused, just as every citizen after all deserves.

H.E. The President of Malta Dr George Abela, signing the Visitors' Book



Visit to H.E. Dr George Abela, the President of Malta at *San Anton Palace*



H.E. Dr George Abela with Mr Anthony J. Tabone and Dr Peter Fenech, Chairman and Board Member of the Broadcasting Authority



H.E. Dr George Abela meeting the Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority, Mr Anthony J Tabone



H.E. Dr George Abela with Dr Reno Borg, Board Member of the Broadcasting Authority



H.E. Dr George Abela with staff members leading the tour of San Anton Palace



His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Mercieca
blessing the commemorative plaque

I only touched on a few points regarding the Authority and broadcasting in Malta as this is not the place where one should analyse the subject. There were others before me who expressed themselves very competently on these points and whom I have consulted. It would therefore be opportune that the second edition of the President's Forum, which will take place during the first few months of next year, will be dedicated to institutional and constitutional reforms, including broadcasting, so that an in-depth discussion will take place in order to update the Constitution for it to serve the nation better.

Thank you.

8.2 Special Supplement with the Times

The Authority reached an agreement with Allied Newspapers Ltd for the publication of a special 12-page supplement focusing exclusively on the work undertaken by the Authority over the past fifty years, including a historical overview of the evolution of this constitutional entity charged with regulating broadcasting in Malta.

The supplement also included an interview with the Chairman and the Chief Executive and members of the management team as well as comments from the majority of employees indicating



Personalised cover with the commemorative stamp



Chairpersons of the Broadcasting Authority
Mr Joseph Scicluna; Dr V. Falzon; Mr Anthony J. Tabone
(incumbent); Mr Laurence Mizzi; Prof Joseph M. Pirotta;
and Chief Justice Emeritus Dr Joseph Said Pullicino

why the occasion was personally significant to them. The supplement was distributed with the Times of Thursday 29th September.

8.3 Anniversary Logo

As part of its branding strategy to commemorate this golden anniversary, the Authority commissioned a special logo which was used in conjunction with activities marking this celebration. Designed specifically to highlight the golden anniversary, it was no surprise that the number 50 and a touch of bronze colour was used for this logo.

8.4 Commemorative Stamp

Following an agreement reached with Maltapost, the Authority secured the issuing of a personalised cover with a special stamp to commemorate its 50th anniversary. This venture was further complemented by the use of personalised stamps used for local postage.

8.5 Gala Reception

The Authority paid tribute to all past and present employees by organising a gala reception which was held on 27th October at the Grand Hotel Excelsior. The event served to bring together



CEO's, Mr Antoine J. Ellul; Mr Joseph Grima; Mr Pierre Cassar (incumbent); and Prof Kevin Aquilina



Secretaries to the Board, Mr Edgar P. Cassar; Mr Harry Zammit Cordina; Mr Antoine J. Ellul; and Dr Simon Manicolo (incumbent)

colleagues and friends together with the key stakeholders, including representatives of all broadcasting stations operating in Malta.

8.6 Visit to Gharghur Transmitting Tower

All members of staff were encouraged to submit proposals for special events which could be organised as part of the calendar of celebrations commemorating this important date.

One such event was a visit to the Gharghur Transmitting Tower which is the hub of all technical activity, in particular that relating to nationwide digital and analogue broadcasting.

The majority of employees had never visited this site which is tucked away in a dead-end road in the quaint village of Gharghur. The Authority's technical consultant, Joe Francalanza, doubled up as a location guide, meticulously explaining the nature and importance of the transmitting tower standing majestically in the centre of the complex. The visit was held on 7th April 2011.

9. Broadcasting in Malta – Safeguarding the Public Interest

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Broadcasting Authority that came into existence on 29th September 1961 when the Broadcasting Ordinance, Ordinance XX of 1961, was brought into force under Admiral Sir Guy Grantham. The Malta Broadcasting Authority, as it was originally known, replaced the Government Broadcasting Board, and in 1964, the Authority was upgraded to a Constitutional authority and renamed Broadcasting Authority.

It was the run-up to Independence. Radio services had been in service since 1935 with the set-up of the company *Broadcast Relay (Service) Malta Ltd.*, which in 1955 changed its name to *Rediffusion Malta Ltd.* As from 28th September, 1961 this company also had the obligation to develop all forms of broadcasting including visual. In fact, a year after the set-up of the *Malta Broadcasting Authority*, television broadcasts started.

From the outset the primary regulatory function of the Broadcasting Authority was that of ensuring impartiality and balance in sound and television broadcasts, and with independence in 1964, the Authority was given sovereignty through Articles 118 and 119 of the Constitution of Malta.

In September 1990 a *White Paper* was published setting out proposals for a new framework enabling the expansion of radio and television services in Malta based on the concept of pluralism. A draft broadcasting bill was presented to

Parliament on 8th March 1991 and, after 22 parliamentary sessions, the new bill was enacted and brought into effect on 1st June 1991. And thus, the Broadcasting Ordinance of 1961, which had regulated the broadcasting sector for the previous 30 years, was repealed by the Broadcasting Act 1991 which introduced pluralism in broadcasting.

The early years – 1961-1971

The Broadcasting Authority was set up during a period when an interim constitution was operative and provided for an Executive Council under the British Rule. It was a time of struggle for Malta's independence, a time when every effort was also being made by the rulers to safeguard British foreign investment on these islands, and amid a political-religious struggle between the Church and the MLP in 1961.

From the start, the Broadcasting Authority's role was that of the country's broadcasting regulator. As from 29th September 1961, all sound and television broadcasting services in Malta (except those broadcast by the armed forces hosted in Malta) became the exclusive responsibility of the Authority. These services were to be exclusively supplied by contractors appointed by the Authority. *Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.*, formerly *Broadcast Relay Service (Malta) Limited*, was locally set up in 1935 with the aim of countering Fascist propaganda from Italy. *Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.* had operated wired sound broadcasting in Malta



Former Offices of the Broadcasting Authority in 1961 at 12 , Old Treasury Street, Valletta

Schools Broadcasting and Educational Programmes

Educational Programmes organised by the Broadcasting Authority on Television

Ahseb Mitt Darba - MTV - 14th February 1968; 7:30pm



Team A – St. Michael's Training College
C. Vella Haber; P. Briguglio; A. Muscat; A. Storage



Team B – University/Junior College
C. Caruana; M. Borda; T. Borg Barthet; Ph. Sciberras

since 1935 under successive licences from the Governor. This service had progressively grown to the daily average broadcast of thirty-four hours of programming on two channels. Not only was Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd. granted the licence to develop all forms of broadcasting on 28th September 1961 but it was also granted an extension for 25 years of its licence for cable radio broadcasts when the previous licence was due to expire four years later.

Before this date, *Rediffusion* broadcast mainly programmes of an entertainment and general interest nature. The Department of Information was responsible for Schools Broadcasting and informative programmes on this service while the Government Broadcasting Board, a separate body, was responsible for a regular series of unscripted discussions and for Party Political Broadcasts.

The provisions of the Ordinance of 1961 laid down much stricter standards with regard to content and quality. Although this Ordinance was modelled and compared to the UK's Independent Television Act of 1954 for the setting up of the Independent Television Authority in UK, the Ordinance introduced the concept of news and current affairs programmes in Malta. Although the main functions of the Authority were that of a supervisory and regulatory body charged with safeguarding general broadcasting standards in the public interest, unlike its counterpart in the UK, these services were to be provided by its contractors without prejudice to the right of the Authority to provide the services itself. In fact, the Ordinance also stipulated that the Authority was to spend each year the sum of £10,000 and £25,000 respectively on Wired Sound and Television broadcasting – unlike the Independent Television Act of UK.

The first meeting was held at The Palace, Valletta on Monday 2nd October 1961 under the Chairmanship of Lt. Col. G. C. Micallef-Eynaud. The Authority's offices were at 12, Old Treasury Street, Valletta, and the first staff was seconded from Government to the Broadcasting Authority. This included the Secretary to the Authority, Mr Bellizzi, and his assistant, Mr Ellul, together with a shorthand-typist (Ms Bugeja) and a messenger (Mr Caruana).⁷ The premises in Valletta were rented at £345 per annum and the lease ran for three years certain and a further three years at the Authority's option.

With immediate effect, the Authority took control of the Schools Broadcasting in collaboration with the Department of Education, and of Party Political and General Election broadcasts. Rediffusion was required to undertake a comprehensive local news service starting with a daily (five days a week) thirty minutes programme of news and views on current events supplemented by a weekly discussion programme in line with the programmes initiated by the previous Government Broadcasting Board. This ran into numerous difficulties as reported in the Authority's First Annual Report – *"A difficult political situation plus unfamiliarity with an independent impartial service of considerable difficulty and often controversy particularly in the matter of selection"* of subject matter for discussion and news items reported.

The Authority also reported in its First Annual Report that certain sections of opinion holders of the population just *"refused to take part in views concerning the political and constitutional situation of the country"*. On the other hand, they were then *"very quick in alleging bias of those who participated in such programmes"*. While some of the opinion holders were *"reportedly shy of self-expression"* on this new

⁷ Minutes of the First Meeting of the Broadcasting Authority; 2nd October 1961

service, on the other hand other opinion makers were “very suspicious of free comment and of the views of those who differ from them politically”. There was “an ingrained reluctance in Malta, not restricted to any particular section of society, to discussing matters of disagreement on the air. Too often the subjects discussed seemed to be of minor importance in comparison with the real issues at the moment”.

On the other hand, the same could not be said with regard to religious programmes broadcast on *Rediffusion* and which were considered highly important by local listeners. In spite of great effort put into the production of religious services from different parts of the islands, nothing could convince those taking part in broadcast religious services and ceremonies that the nature of the medium required greater thought and discipline in their representation. “The basic fact that a broadcast ceremony is not the same as a ceremony which was not broadcast” was difficult to conceive by those taking active part in such productions.

Religious broadcasts were already being aired by *Rediffusion* before the inception of the Broadcasting Authority, and the first step taken in 1961 by the Malta Broadcasting Authority was to invite the Catholic Religious Advisor of the BBC, Fr Agnellus Andrew O.F.M., to visit Malta and report his impressions on the local broadcasting scenario of such programmes. He reported that “the occasional outside broadcast of rallies or functions ... are much too long, too diffuse, and too unorganised for good broadcasting ... with the speakers, particularly if they are lay and inexperienced, carried away by the emotion of the moment ... and involve the broadcaster, who has editorial responsibility, in grave difficulties.”

This was the broadcasting scenario of such religious programmes – “it was unsuitable for broadcasting, merely being a skimming of the sound off the top of a ceremony not designed for sound, and requiring physical presence in the building for full understanding. The panegyrics were quite the wrong style for broadcasting, the music was exceedingly florid, and the work of the orchestra and singers not of high quality. But the chief impression was that the whole thing had essentially no real religious effect at all”.

The same, however, cannot be said with regard to school broadcasting on *Rediffusion*. This had previously been organised by the School Broadcasting Unit within the Department of Education. Although the Authority could pass over the responsibility for the production of such programmes to its contractor, the Authority assumed full responsibility and financing of all School Broadcasts which were designed primarily for Government Schools. The Department of Education still supported them when the Broadcasting Authority took over. The Authority immediately set up its Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee⁸ with the Director of Education, Chev. J. P. Vassallo O.B.E., acting as chairperson while the other members of this advisory

committee acted themselves in a number of vetting panels – one for each subject taught in schools – to scrutinise each script before it was broadcast. Such members included not only headmasters, teachers and inspectors from the Department of Education but also members of the Committee of the Malta Union of Teachers, of the Private Schools Association, and representatives of His Grace the Archbishop.

For the scholastic year 1962/63 the school broadcasting programme consisted of 221 scheduled broadcasts made up of 39 Friday morning broadcasts, 25 programmes for stages and Class I; 49 programmes for Classes II–III; 61 programmes for Classes IV–V; and 47 programmes for Classes VI and school leavers. The School Broadcasting publication “The Young Listener” was “rendered more attractive ... stitched, trimmed and printed on better quality paper ... and every effort was being made to furnish listeners with the visual material required as background and complementary to the broadcasts”. An average of 23,000 copies of the magazine was sold per month and this represented 81% of the buying potential of the schools.

The early years – 1961-1971 [Television]

The day before the Ordinance setting up the *Malta Broadcasting Authority* was signed by the Governor, *Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.* was given exclusive broadcasting rights for twenty-five years for cable radio, while, at the same time, a subsidiary was also set up, *Malta Television Service Ltd.*, for the development and operation within fifteen months of a television service having broadcasting rights for the next twenty-five years. *Malta Television Service Ltd.* was also given the task of setting-up and operation within five years, with broadcasting rights for the following ten years, of wireless sound broadcasting.

Television started in 1962 with an average of 4½ hours of daily broadcasts; out of which 24.4% or 7.11 hrs per week were local productions while the rest were direct imported recorded programmes. The Authority’s contribution to television broadcasts concentrated on Party Political Broadcasts and Ministerial Broadcasts; and on two programmes “Ritratt” and “Youth Want to Know”. Although no data was found recording the actual number of viewers, the Authority reported at the end of March 1963 that this new service was listened to extensively in Malta and Gozo and the total number of TV licences issued increased drastically and was in excess of 19,000. By the end of 1964, there were 24,490 combined radio and television licences, 39,943 *Rediffusion* receivers and 8,488 radio licences while the number of wireless sets in use was estimated to be in the region of 24,000 radio sets - Government revenue from wireless licence fees rose from £21,847 for 1960/61 to £98,000 for 1964-65.

Following the election of 1962, the Legislative Assembly was composed of five political parties and the total available

⁸ See Appendix III For a full list of the Chairpersons and Members of the Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee

broadcasting time was distributed according to each party's strength in the Assembly. Party Political Broadcasts recommenced on radio, while prolonged negotiations with the political parties preceded the new broadcasting scheme on television. The total broadcasting time for such broadcasts was shared between the two platforms of radio and television in the ratio of 5:2 respectively. Since the Malta Television Service was not as yet equipped with recording facilities, such broadcasts were first scripted and then read live. The Authority, on the other hand, emphasised that all TV broadcasts were to be rehearsed beforehand for timing purposes and that speakers were not to depart from the original script.

From a technical point of view, although sound broadcasting had been in operation since 1935, it is amply clear that local knowledge was lacking, quite often requiring cooperation from foreign broadcasters at a high cost. During the independence celebrations, there was close cooperation with the outside broadcast unit of RAI which made the broadcast of three major events of these celebrations possible: the handing over of the instrument of Independence; the State Opening of Parliament by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh; and the schoolchildren's rally in the Independence Arena. The same arrangements were made for the Queen's visit in November 1967 where extensive live coverage was given to many of the events of the Royal Visit.

The first Maltese drama written for television, was first screened on 22nd March 1964 and this was *"an intricate and costly business and the amount of hard work and rehearsing which goes into even the simplest play is much greater than is generally realised"* (B.A. Third Annual Report covering the year ended 31st March 1964). This was only possible after an *"experienced BBC producer was brought over by MTV ... for a three months' instructional and training programme"* after the completion of the New Studios in 1963 and the transfer from Rediffusion House requiring the *"cessation of 'live' studio productions for a period of five weeks"*.

On the other hand, the first full-Maltese contingent working in broadcasting was that of the Engineering Department, including the Chief Engineer of Rediffusion. In 1964 the Department laid a total of 22,000 yards of Rediffusion cable.

The first regulations on Public Service Broadcasts were first agreed with Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd. and MTV in 1964 in which the broadcasting of SOS and Police Messages was governed, including that of a number of slogans and short films urging the public to *Keep the Beaches Clean*, to *Save Water*, and to observe *Traffic Regulations*. Public Notices issued by the Government were part of an agreed list of daily broadcasts by Rediffusion.

Although much seems to have been attained during the first few years of the Broadcasting Authority, *"the financial clauses in the Broadcasting Ordinance ... were ... meaningless, and the amount given to the Authority each year ... was ... quite inadequate. Several of the powers conferred on the Authority*

... were ... negative in character ... while there were ... several other provision of the Ordinance which needed to be revised ... and which in their present form, and in view of the Authority, ... were ... either defective or not in keeping with the spirit of the Constitutional provisions on broadcasting" – (B.A. 1965-66).

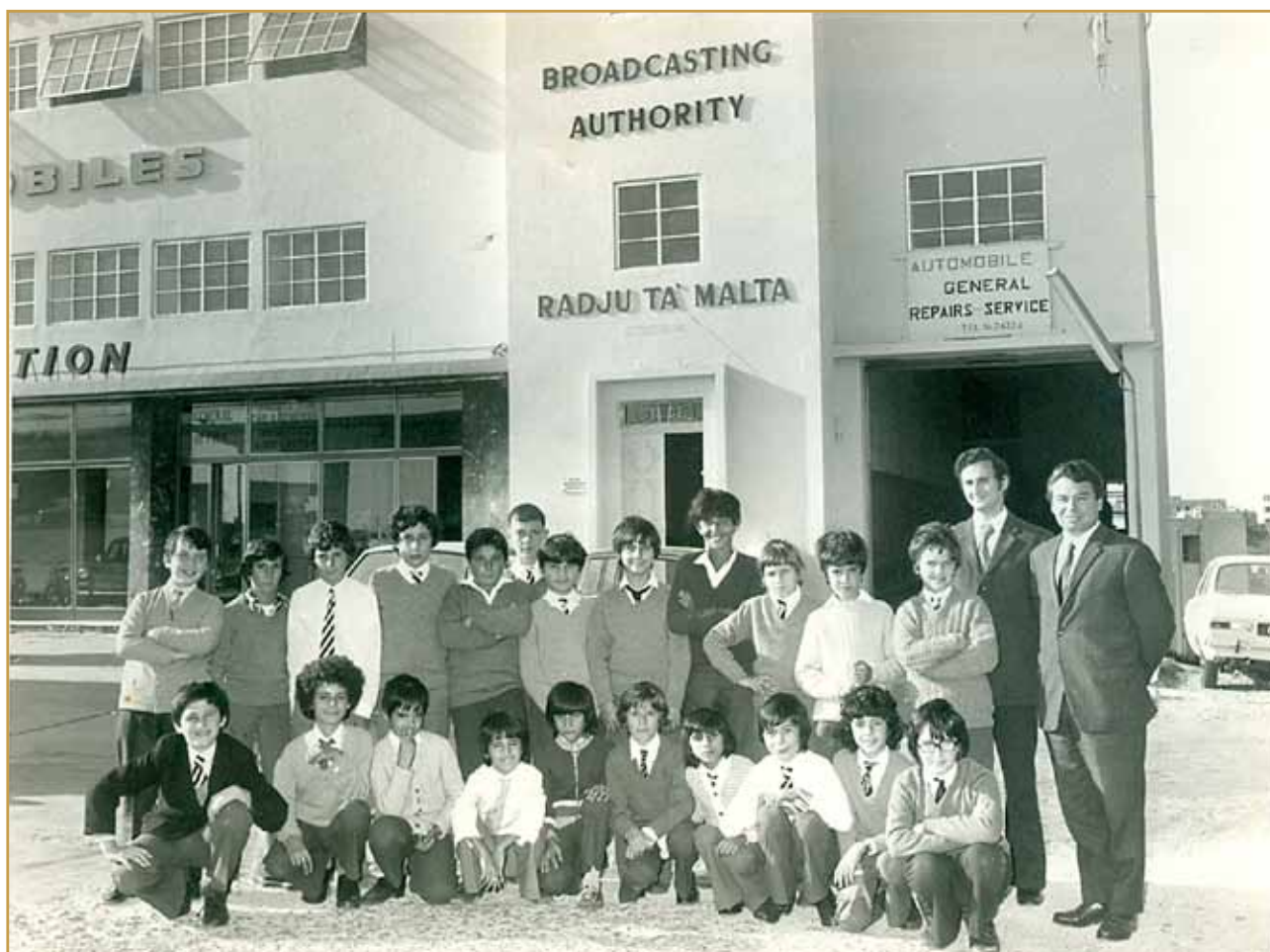
The Authority was not only critical of the use of media services available but also verbosely critical of certain Government decisions. The Broadcasting (Amendment) Act 1966 introduced by Government deprived the Authority of its exclusivity in providing sound and television broadcasting services as these were extended to the Government or to "any person, body or authority under licence from or under arrangements with the Government". This is still carried today as Government continues to license the public service broadcaster's radio and television stations and has only lately empowered the Authority to license digital radio (2007) and satellite broadcasts (2009).

Another article of this amendment to the Broadcasting Act also gave the power to Government to appoint a Chief Executive and to dictate the recruitment and conditions of employment of the Authority's staff. It was only in 1999 that the Authority appointed for the first time in its history its own Chief Executive Officer. Even the appointment of the Authority itself used to be made for short periods of six months, then one year, and more recently for three years even though the Constitution allows such appointment to be made for up to five years.

The Authority's finance, or lack of it, was problematic from the start. The Broadcasting Ordinance clearly stated that all licence fees paid by the public were to be channelled back into broadcasting – after the deduction by Government of £15,000

Year	Revenue from Wireless Licence Fees	Amount budgeted for by MBA	Amount available to MBA	% of Wireless Licence Fees
1959/60	£17,793	-	-	
1960/61	£21,847	-	-	
1961/62	£63,546	£19,200	£17,200	27.06
1962/63	£83,057	£50,355	£45,000	54.70
1963/64	£96,074	£65,075	£45,000	46.83
1964/65	£103,769	£66,000	£45,000	43.46
1965/66	£107,773	£67,000	£45,000	41.75
1966/67	£145,382	£68,000	£45,000	30.95
1967/68	£146,727	£68,382	£50,000	34.12
1968/69	£167,703	£70,807	£55,000	37.67
1969/70	(est) £175,000		£60,000	34.29

(Source: Broadcasting Authority Annual Report and Accounts, 1964-1970)



Offices of the Authority at National Road, Blata l-Bajda, Undated photo of Schools educational visits to the Authority and to Radju Ta' Malta with Mr Laurence Mizzi, Head of Radju Malta (right)

for the collection of these fees. But then, the Authority was also burdened by the contracts which it inherited on inception and had to spend a minimum of £35,000 on sound and television programming each year and to pay normal charge rates for programmes, broadcasting time and facilities to its own contractors. As reported in the Authority's Annual Report for 1965-66 "revenue accruing ... from licence fees and customs duty on radios and television sets continue to grow. Licence fees are increasing on average at the rate of £10,000 a year and the Authority estimated that revenue from this source will exceed £120,000 during 1966-67."

1971-1981

The Authority's main contention is that the sequence of the main events establishing Broadcasting Services in Malta in 1961 were erroneous, ... as the agreements which were to establish Malta's broadcasting services were negotiated and signed between the Colonial Administration and Rediffusion before the Authority came into being. (Broadcasting Authority Annual Report and Accounts 1971/72).

One of the agreements was for the setting up of a wireless service in Malta or Radju Malta as it became commonly known. This agreement included two fundamental sections: the first that the service had to start within a period of five years and not later than the 29th September 1966; and secondly, that the operator, Malta Television Service Ltd. had exclusive rights for a period of ten years on the date that it was signed (i.e. up till 29th September 1971), after which the contract was still binding for a further 15 years but with no exclusive rights. However, in view of negotiations with Government on the future of this service, Malta Television Service Ltd. decided to ask for an extension of its commencement date with negotiations starting in November 1967. After six months, following a request from MTV and after consultation with the Government, it was agreed to extend the period during which the Company may start a wireless service to 28th March 1969. This was further extended to 28th March 1970, to 28th September 1970, and to 28th March 1971 during which latter period negotiations were suspended when Government acquired a radio station that was to be set up by a German broadcasting organisation – the Deutsche Welle – a diplomatic wireless station at Delimara being granted, at the same time, a licence to operate a relay service from Malta. Test transmissions were inaugurated on 23rd July 1971.

At the time it was felt that the Authority should move closer to its main contractor at Gwardamangia. Various other government properties were sought and on the appointment of Mr Joseph Grima on 2nd November 1971 as Chief Executive of the Broadcasting Authority, a post which had been left vacant since November 1968, and the appointment of a new Board on 31st March 1972 under the chairmanship of Chev. J. P. Vassallo O.B.E., the Authority held its meetings at its new offices at National Road, Blata l-Bajda.

This was the start of a nationalization period with the first involving directly the Broadcasting Authority. In May 1972 when Malta changed over to a decimal currency and abandoned its old system of pounds, shillings and pence, 520 spots of advertisements on sound and 284 spots on television were broadcast by the Authority on national services. Several half-hour slots were also shown on television for adult education programmes in connection with the decimal currency switch-over.

During the impasse between the British and Maltese Governments, the BBC direct relays for news, current affairs and information re-broadcast on the English language network of Rediffusion gave rise to a number of problems, especially when current affairs programmes, which are open to comment, became a subject of inequitable comment by BBC producers. At the same time, news coverage became open to station comment as these became intertwined in the same news bulletin, thus misleading listeners when comments and facts were reported as one. *There have been instances when the Authority complained to its contractors about the news service, particularly in the reporting of certain political events* (B.A., 1972-73). Various meetings were held between the Authority and its contractors, always acting within the limitations imposed by the broadcasting agreements and the Broadcasting Ordinance. The Authority, however, was *unwilling to allow present problems to perpetrate themselves endlessly without attempting to find a solution*. (B.A, 1972-73).

The next major development in broadcasting was the setting up of *Radju Malta* by the Broadcasting Authority through the exercise of such powers given to it by Section VI of the Broadcasting Ordinance, enabling the Authority to set up its own broadcasting services. Radio Malta, in fact, opened from temporary studios at Blata l-Bajda on 8th January 1973 with an average of four programme hours daily [10:00 am to noon and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and included two daily news bulletins; music; cultural programmes; a daily programme for women; a programme on Gozo; and weekend coverage of local and international sporting events]. It made use of the Deutsche Welle transmitter at Nigret. *It has been firmly established that transmissions from Radio Malta were well received in Tripoli, Tunis and the whole of Sicily* (B.A., 1973-73). Quadripartite talks between Libya, Italy, Tunisia and Malta were held which resulted with Libya donating transmitting equipment in November 1973 while Italy accepted to provide an antenna for Radio Malta.

Within six weeks from the arrival of the new equipment, Radio Malta transmissions were extended from four hours daily to twelve and, on 1st April 1974, the service was further expanded to seventeen hours of locally originated programmes daily.

Within a year from the transmissions of Radio Malta 1, use of the former diplomatic wireless station at Delimara was made and Radio Malta 2 started transmissions, also on the medium wave, broadcasting music and news on 99.7 MHz while Radio Malta International started broadcasting on 75.5 MHz.

By the end of 1973 it was estimated that 50% of households interviewed had at least one radio set (either in the house itself as a movable set operating on mains, or installed in a car or in the form of a portable transistor radio); 13% owned two sets; 4% owned three sets; and 1% owned four radio sets – 53,000 households in total⁹. Rediffusion was present in 67% of households – 1% lower at 52,400 households in total; while only 9% of the population neither had a radio set

Listenership of Radio Malta according to Ownership of Radio and/or Rediffusion

	Total	Radio and Rediffusion	Radio Only	Rediffusion Only	No set
Daily	145,100	86,000	58,000	300	800
Weekly	40,300	28,000	6,000	5,000	1,300
Rarely	23,300	12,000	5,000	5,000	1,300
Total Listeners	208,000	126,000	69,000	10,300	3,400
Total Pops	322,000	144,000	75,000	73,000	30,000
%	65%	87.5%	92.0%	14.0%	11.3%

[Radju ta' Malta – Listenership Survey, November 1973; Table 8]

⁹ Radju ta' Malta – Listenership Survey, November 1973; Shaw Universal Marketing Services, Valletta; commissioned by the Broadcasting Authority.

or a Rediffusion set. A “*Rediffusion Advert published in the Commercial Courier of 8.10.73 states that ‘Rediffusion is installed in 53,833 homes, hotels and restaurants in Malta’. Assuming that between 500 and 1000 of these are in hotels and restaurants it follows that the estimate obtained from the survey is within 1-2% of the true figure.*”

From this survey, based on 1200 respondents it was also estimated that there were 76,000 \pm 4,000 radio sets in use in Malta and Gozo while the Malta Trade Statistics published by the Central Office of Statistics lists the following table for Imports and Re-exports of radio for the period 1964 – 1973:

Year	Imports	Re-Exports	Net Imports
1964	3,840	-	3,840
1965	2,779	2	2,777
1966	2,856	266	2,590
1967	11,769	3,786	8,001
1968	13,784	1,139	12,645
1969	11,261	1,443	9,818
1970	12,587	308	12,279
1971	8,817	441	8,376
1972	4,685	313	4,372
1973*	6,943	3	6,931
			71,629

Notes:

- Figures include Radio sets and Radio Gramophones.
- 1973 figures cover the period January/June only.
- Total does not include radio sets imported prior to 1964 and which were still in use.
- Allowance has to be made for those radio sets imported latest and which were still unsold.
- Allowance has to be made for those radio sets for which no record existed.

With an extensive operation schedule on 1st April 1974, Radju Malta became fully operational and its success in listenership excelled through its organisation of the first ever local broadcast of *Cantasud 1974*, an annual festival that used to tour Southern Italy. This was brought over to Malta on 2nd July 1974 with the principal participation of Al Bano, Romina Power and Lara St. Paul. *Cantasud Malta* was awarded the *Cantasud Gold Medal* obtaining 54 votes out of 71 for the best organisation out of the 21 localities that *Cantasud* visited that year.

Programme standards by the Rediffusion Group of Companies, however, continued to deteriorate. The standard of imported programmes by the Malta Television Services in 1974 was deemed lower than in previous years. The original agreement provided for a minimum broadcasting time of 3 hours per day

and a total of 28 hours per week. By 1971, the daily broadcast hours had only increased by one hour and although it was considered an improvement, the Authority felt that this increase was the minimum justifiable considering the £224,144 direct financial subsidy paid to its contractors up till 1971. For two consecutive summers of 1972 and 1973 MTV made requests to the Authority for the reduction of television hours during the summer months despite the increased payments by the Authority on television programming and the provision of equipment. In May 1974 the Authority was informed by its contractors that televisions hours would be reduced irrespective of the Authority’s stand. In July 1974 Malta Television Services reduced the broadcasting hours by 25 minutes daily.

Following the general elections held on 12th to 14th June 1971, Government made clear from the start its policy on broadcasting. At the first public pronouncement at the Speech from the Throne, it was made clear that there was to be a point in time when broadcasting was to be transferred to the public sector. The first steps taken by Government was that of the appointment of a Chief Executive to the Broadcasting Authority – a post which had been left vacant for about three years as Government retained such power of appointment up till 1999, and dictated the recruitment and conditions of employment of the Authority’s staff.

The Broadcasting Authority supported from the start Government’s plan to shift broadcasting media to the public sector and, on separate occasions, the Authority offered its services for the start of negotiations.

Negotiations started between Government and the Rediffusion Group towards the end of 1973. However, by the end of 1974, negotiations broke down as no agreement had been reached between the General Workers Union and the management as to the terminal benefits that would be paid to the staff were the company to terminate its activities on Malta. This was the second industrial disagreement registered between the G.W.U. and the Rediffusion Group, the first being registered on 26th July 1968 with a one-day strike.

On 14th February 1975 a sit-in strike was ordered by the G.W.U. at the premises of the Rediffusion Group of Companies and for a few days wired sound and television broadcasting services remained off the air. On 19th February radio and television broadcasts were restarted by the workers themselves who were still on the sit-in strike. On 24th February 1975 a Bill legalizing recent past and future activities of the workers of Rediffusion and MTV was introduced by Government and an Emergency Council was made up of workers from the two companies.

By April 1975 it was decided that the Emergency Council would also take control of other important communication services. These would include the former Rediffusion, Malta Television and Radio Malta under the new name of *Xandir Malta* run under a new public corporation Telemalta which would also take control of the Telephone Department

and the Cable and Wireless Department both of which had operated independently. Telemalta Corporation was to be run by a Chairman and Board Members appointed under the Minister for Development, with each section run by its own management. In the meantime, all the Authority's staff members and all broadcasting equipment previously purchased or acquired were transferred to the Emergency Council.

By 31st July 1975 *Xandir Malta* officially became the broadcasting division of the Telemalta Corporation. All previous responsibilities for programme production were shed by the Authority and all manpower and technical assets were transferred to *Xandir Malta* including the Authority's wireless Radju Malta and its three stations broadcasting on the medium wave and on VHF-FM. The Schools Broadcasting Unit was also seconded by the Authority to the new centralized control of Telemalta Corporation.

Under the new broadcasting regime, the Authority reverted to its primary role of acting as 'watch-dog' over the broadcasting media, with Telemalta Corporation as its new broadcasting contractor. Its primary function emerged from the provisions of the Constitution (to ensure impartiality in matters of political or industrial controversy, or relating to current public policy, and that facilities and time are fairly apportioned between persons belonging to different political parties); and with the provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Broadcasting Agreements (which obliged the Authority and its Contractor to maintain balance and impartiality in programming, and to exclude from programmes any matter designed to serve the interests of any political party).

At the time it was considered that under these arrangements the Authority became more removed from the actual production process and in the consideration of complaints, it was not acting as judge, jury and defending counsel as was previously contended. Complaints received by the Authority were referred to its contractor for its comments, prior to further investigation and decision by the Authority. *"The Authority's monitoring service was extended to various areas of programming and reports were sent regularly for the Contractor's attention. Where major points of substance were raised these were dealt with at Board level and suitable follow-up action taken"* (B.A., 1975-76). Actually this meant that a complaint received by the Authority was forwarded to its Contractor for comments; this in turn was forwarded to the complainant for clarification and then if necessary brought to Board level.

Another first was achieved in February 1976 when, for the first time Outside Television Broadcasting became operative through the acquisition of an outside broadcasting unit which was modified to take a third camera and two portable microwave links by *Xandir Malta* engineers. This was used for the first time for the live coverage of the proceedings of "Budget Day" together with recorded historical commentaries on the House of Representatives and the interiors of the President's Palace. By the end of the year, this was used for two sports events (Horse Racing from Marsa and the Motorcycle

Scramble at Mtarfa); for the *Malta Song Festival*; the Good Friday Procession from Mosta; and for the 1976 General Election where a temporary two-camera studio was set up at the MCAST while a third camera was placed directly in the counting area. Continual 'live' coverage extending throughout the night and ending late the following morning, with liaison between the main studio control at TVM, the MCAST studio, and the News Division ensured continuity.

Outside broadcasting coverage for that period April 1976 to March 1977 also included:

- the Carnival 'défilé' and dancing from Misrah il-Helsien;
- the Republic Day festivities outside City Gate;
- the swearing-in of the new President of the Republic at the Palace, Valletta;
- the Midnight Christmas Mass (which had to be abandoned due to a power failure);
- the consecration ceremony of the new Archbishop at the Mdina Cathedral;
- the state visit of the President of the Libyan Arab Republic, Colonel Gaddafi;
- opera from the "Aurora Theatre" in Gozo;
- the appointment of Labour Party deputy leaders from Freedom Hall, Marsa;
- the Prime Minister's address to the Nation, also from Marsa';
- the Manoel Theatre Orchestra Christmas Concert from Valletta;
- the "Bir Miftuh" orchestral concert from the Assembly Hall at the Univeristy, Tal-Qroqq; and
- the opening ceremony of the second TV Channel at TVM premises [Tivumalta Ltd.].

Another first was achieved on 13th October 1977 – the direct radio transmission of a parliamentary session in which the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition took part. And on 6th November 1978 Parliament again exercised its prerogative – to allow the television cameras within the precincts of the House of Parliament for a direct transmission of a debate on Malta's foreign policy. This was followed on two other occasions – the 27th and 28th January 1979 – when Parliament was recorded and a deferred transmission took place on radio and Cable radio only in connection with the Budget involving the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

In January 1978 the English Service on Cable Radio Two was withdrawn and was replaced by programmes broadcast by the wireless station, Radio Malta One. By January 1975 the total daily listenership of both Radio and Cable Radio registered 282,000 listeners, representing more than two-thirds of the total population (aged 9 years and over) with Radio Malta One registering 155,000 while Cable Radio One registered 123,000 listeners. In 1979, Radio Malta Two, (the all music service) was taken off the air, while on 14th December 1979, Radio Malta International was moved to the VHF/FM band. This international service was discontinued as it did not have sufficient adequate power to carry transmission to the Italian mainland and was replaced by twelve continuous hours of

daily broadcasts from 08:00am to 20:00 in English for the ever increasing tourist population in hotels, apartments and other holiday complexes.

In addition, for the first time, Television Malta hosted Mons. G. Mercieca, Archbishop of Malta and Mons. N. Cauchi, Bishop of Gozo to deliver the religious and pastoral television talks for the Holy Week of 1979.

Although the contractual relationship that existed between the Broadcasting Authority and the Rediffusion were also operative with the Telemalta Corporation (when the latter became responsible through its broadcasting division, Xandir Malta) the same cannot be said for those stations which operated under direct licence from the Government. At the start of 1979 these included the Central Mediterranean Relay Station; the British Forces Broadcasting Service; the Deutsche Welle Relay Station; TiveMalta Ltd.; the Voice of Friendship and Solidarity (later Voice of the Mediterranean operating under joint management provided by the Maltese and Libyan Governments); and Radio Mediterranean (a joint venture between the Maltese and Algerian Governments) – all these were not contracted by the Authority.

Only the Constitutional provisions on broadcasting and one section of the Ordinance [Section 7(2)(a) (c) and (g)] applied to these broadcasting services. The section referred to:

- religious sentiment, good taste or decency in programmes;
- the prevention of anything which might incite to crime or disorder or be offensive to public feeling or give offence to a living person; and
- the preservation of accuracy and impartiality in news and the maintenance of impartiality in matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy.

Although the Authority on its part and as far as possible monitored the programmes and investigated any complaints which arose within the specific limits allowed by law, administrative action could only be taken by Government.

The perennial divergences afflicting the Authority and media service providers promulgated themselves not only between these two parties but also within the media service providers themselves. The highly polarized political situation, with only one public service provider under Ministerial control, was not a sustainable position especially when social partners were also involved. A case in point was the unprecedented situation faced by the Authority in November 1979 following directives issued by the General Workers Union ordering a boycott by the media of all official activities of certain Members of Parliament – a directive, official and/or sometimes unofficial, that was resorted to a number of times over the years.

Such a directive had immediate repercussions as the Authority and/or its contracted service providers were restrained from the provision of complete and objective programmes as daily news coverage; current affairs programming (*Mill-Gurnali tal-Lum* – a daily review of editorial opinion); and parliamentary

reports (*Mill-Parlament* – a report on parliamentary affairs broadcast whenever parliament was in session); as well as the broadcast of annual political programmes organized by the Broadcasting Authority. This often led to temporary suspension of programmes sometimes for the duration of the dispute, cancellation of programme series, and legal action awaiting court judgments.

1981-1990

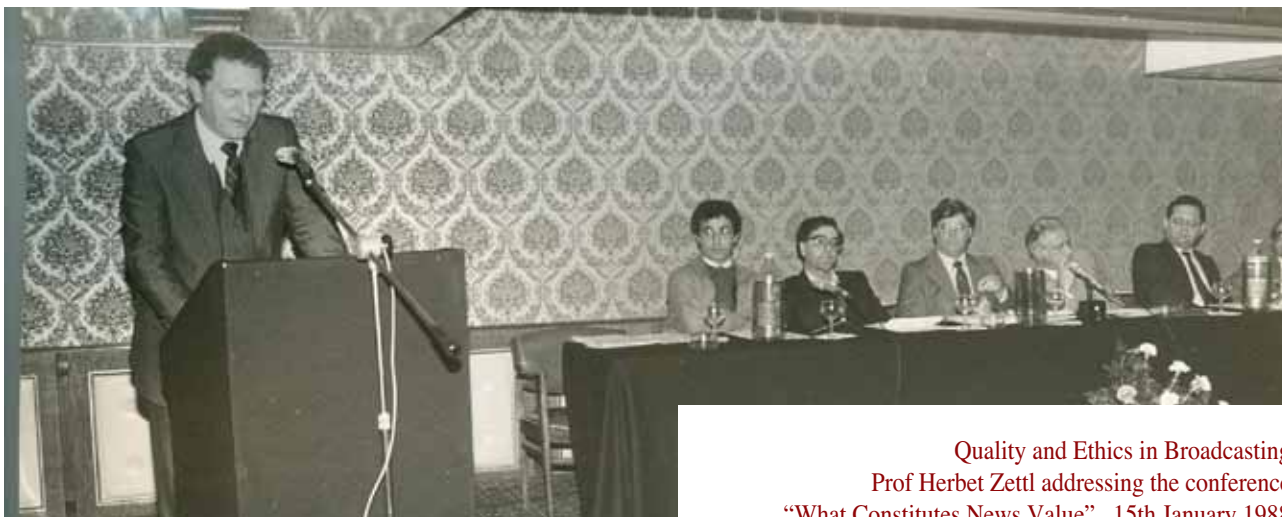
The year 1981 started with the appointment of Mr Francis S Carbone as Chief Executive of the Authority on 21st January, a post which had been left vacant for some years, while Mr Antoine Ellul, the Authority's Secretary, was detailed for other duties with the public service.

Undoubtedly, two major events attracted great public interest: the introduction of colour television service that was inaugurated on 8th July 1981; and the start of radio broadcasts by the Nationalist Party from overseas. In mid-November 1981 both the General Workers' Union and the Malta Labour Party separately complained to the Authority over what was termed as *imbalance created by such overseas broadcasts*. In its Annual Report the Authority held that *it was not within its competence to put a stop to such broadcasts; however, no remedial measure could be taken at the time for lack of quorum*.

The year 1982 was characterised by a number of Court cases, all concerning the actual composition of the Board. During the previous year, on 16th December 1981 two members of the Board tendered their resignation to the President of the Republic. And although the Authority was still constituted, practically no decisions could be taken by the Authority as there was no quorum. This was confirmed in the First Hall of the Civil Court judgment of May 1982 that asserted that Article 123(2) provided that once a Commission (in this case, the Authority) is set up by the Constitution it may still function, notwithstanding there are vacancies in its membership.

Section 3(5) of the Broadcasting Ordinance states that the number of Members other than the Chairman, shall be not less than four and not more than six, while the First Schedule to the same Ordinance specified that the quorum of the Authority shall consist of three Members in addition to the Chairman. Since 1964, the number of Members appointed to serve on the Authority has been pegged down to the minimum allowed by law.

The incumbent Authority's term of office ended on 20th July of 1982; however the term of office of its three remaining members was extended till the end of the year. At the following Court of Appeal's judgment while confirming the judgment of the First Hall of the Civil Court (in that the Authority was still constituted even with reduced members), the Court of Appeal deemed that post 20th July 1982 the Authority was no longer regularly constituted as required by the Constitution – the mere extension of office did not



Quality and Ethics in Broadcasting
 Prof Herbert Zettl addressing the conference
 “What Constitutes News Value”, 15th January 1988

equate the reconstitution of the Authority. Consequently, the Authority could no longer remain a proper defendant in its own case. In such circumstances, the constitutional provision which states that the Authority’s representation is vested in the Chairman could not be applied as the Authority itself was not constituted.

In a move designed to solve this ongoing controversy in broadcasting arising mainly through the various boycotts declared, the Foreign Interference Bill, Act No. XI of 1982 came into force on its publication on 1st September 1982 while, on the other hand, transmission from Sicily was suspended on 3rd August 1982. Although the local receiving of broadcasts from abroad was not deemed to be an offence, the transmissions by Maltese citizens from abroad to Malta became liable to prosecution. At the time the transmission to neighbouring countries from the latter’s nationals abroad was, and still is, a common practice not only in the E.E.C. (now the European Union) but even worldwide – a case in point being Radio Luxembourg.

From the commencement of 1983 straight through the following three years, the Broadcasting Authority was not constituted. Broadcasting regulation during this period proved

even more precarious when in March 1983 the Chief Executive of the Broadcasting Authority was also appointed Chairman of TeleMalta Corporation, being itself the broadcasting contractor to the Broadcasting Authority. In October 1983, Cable Radio 2 and Radio Malta were peremptorily amalgamated.

For the next three years every effort was made for a negotiated settlement of the existing crisis in broadcasting. The Nationalist Party lifted its 23-month boycott of products advertised on the broadcasting media on the very first day of 1984. This move was reciprocated by the General Workers’ Union lifting its directives ordering the workers of Xandir Malta to boycott Nationalist Party’s activities and, towards the end of the year, removing their boycott against the Nationalist MP, Dr Josie Muscat, as a further sign of goodwill.

This, however, did not totally remove the stalemates prevalent at the time. On 19th February 1985 the Constitutional Court delivered judgment on the case instituted in November 1979 by the Nationalist Party against various omission by Xandir Malta whereby the Court requested the latter to broadcast within two working days that all the complaints listed were adjudged as founded and justified by the Court. All this notwithstanding, the Chief Executive of Xandir Malta presented himself on 19th



30th Anniversary, 1991 of the Broadcasting Authority at the start
 of the Liberalization of the Broadcasting Market

April 1985 in his first monthly programme “*Il-Kap tax-Xandir Iwieġeb*” – a programme which invited adverse criticism from various quarters especially from the House of Representatives when on 10th July it was commented that “*even if informative, the Head of Xandir Malta had no right to touch upon controversial matters*”.

The turning point came at the parliamentary sitting of 10th July 1985 when a Select Committee was set up with the unanimous approval of the House of Representatives with members nominated by both sides of the House to examine the provisions of certain laws with the aim of strengthening the democratic process in Malta, and with the appointment of the Broadcasting Authority on 18th July 1986 (again for a period of one year). The post held by Mr F. X. Carbone as Chairman of the EneMalta Corporation (formerly TeleMalta Corporation) was relinquished on 1st October while he retained the post of Chief Executive of the Broadcasting Authority. After the May General Elections, Mr Antoine Ellul was appointed to the post of Chief Executive of the Broadcasting Authority in July 1987, previously having served the Authority in various capacities during the period 1961 to 1981.

Of note is the Memorandum *Il-Knisja u x-Xandir F’Malta* presented to the Broadcasting Authority on 23rd October 1986 by the Press Office of the Archbishop’s Curia, limiting itself only to the presentation of the Church in news items, and the reconstitution of the Religious Broadcasting Advisory Committee¹⁰ in consultation with the Archbishop of Malta.

In the early eighties, court cases concerning the appointment, composition of the Authority, its quorum and proceedings were the order of the day. Moreover, not being constituted for three and a half years between 1983 and July 1985, brought about a disruption of the Authority’s regulatory and other functions. Impartiality and balance were no longer rigorously observed, and the broadcasting regulator specifically entrusted with that task could not enforce the Constitution’s broadcasting provisions.

The end of this decennial also brought about some welcome changes in broadcasting systems. Cable Radio, which had been operating in Malta for 53 years, broadcast its last programme before closing down on 31st January 1989 while, during the same month, a public call for proposals was issued to develop a Cable Television Service for the Maltese Islands.

In September 1990 a White Paper was issued setting out Government’s proposals for establishing pluralism in broadcasting through the development of new radio services at national and community levels, the introduction of a cable television service, and providing a framework for rapidly developing technologies.

1991 - 1999

The new Broadcasting Bill was published on 8 March 1991 and after 22 parliamentary sessions was enacted and brought into effect on 1st June 1991. However, in April 1991



Licensing of the first Commercial Radio Stations
Island Sound, Radio One Live, Bay Radio
7th November 1991

¹⁰ See Appendix 1 for a full list of Chairpersons and Members of the Religious Broadcasting Advisory Committee



Licensing of the first Community Radio Station
Radju Rona, Naxxar

Government offered and subsequently issued radio licences to the Nationalist Party, the Malta Labour Party, and the Catholic Church in terms of the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance; these were valid for a period expiring on 31st December 1992. On 3rd 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 service comprising of a number of channels received via terrestrial and satellite stations, while the Broadcasting Authority issued a call for applications for eight-year licences to operate nationwide radio stations on that same day. Construction of the cable system began in the Autumn of 1991 while work for the connectivity for Gozo started in 1995. By 1st January 1996 the total number of households with a cable facility stood at 145,371, of which 51,500 were actually connected to the cable service – a penetration rate of 35%.

The Labour Party radio station *Super One Radio* was the first on air with regular 24/7 transmissions in mid-August 1991; the station owned by the Nationalist Party, *Radio 101*, was inaugurated in September 1991; while the Church station, *RTK*, was inaugurated on 14th March 1992.

By 7th November 1991 the Authority had awarded three licences, out of five applications received, to *Island Sound* (which commenced transmission on 6th March 1992), *Radio One Live*, and *Bay Radio* (commencing transmission on 10th March 1992). *Smash Radio* was the last station licensed by the Authority for its first issue of frequencies.

At the end of the year the Authority also launched four-year community radio services that were to broadcast with a 2.5 Km radius from location. The first two such community radio stations were Radju Rona which started transmitting on 15th April 1993 from Naxxar; and Radju għall-Providenza which operated between 20th and 25th December 1993 from Siggiewi with the aim of broadcasting music pledges to raise funds for

the residents of the Dar tal-Providenza. Radio Rona which was embarked upon with much enthusiasm closed down after two months; however the efforts of *Radju għall-Providenza* and *Radju għar-Restawr* (licensed the following year for the restoration of part of the façade of the Mosta Church) were *both quite satisfied with the results of their efforts*.

In June 1992 the Authority advertised the availability of the remaining two unallocated frequencies for nationwide radio services in the VHF/FM band. Three applications were



The Broadcasting Authority Offices
7 Mile End Road, Hamrun

received, setting up the first actual exercise in competitive licensing owing to the limited number of radio frequencies available. *Radio Calypso* was licensed first as it originated from Gozo and promised to present the Gozitan dimension at a national level. There was heavy contention for the last remaining licence.

An interesting development took place during 1993, culminating in the issue of a radio licence by the Authority to UNIMAS Ltd. Following exhaustive negotiations between the Authority and the two applicants (the University of Malta and the Social Action Movement), agreement was reached on the setting up of a holding company (UNIMAS Ltd.) which would be allocated a licence to operate a joint programme service on the FM frequency. Transmissions from the University Radio started in August 1994 while in October 1994 Radju MAS commenced regular transmissions.

In February 1997 two additional VHF-FM frequencies were assigned by Government for use by PBS Ltd and by Alternattiva Demokratika. *FM Bronja*, the third radio service run by the public service broadcaster, was licensed by the Authority by the end of the year. Alternattiva Demokratika, on the other hand, had to give up its community radio licence and a broadcast licence was issued on 6th May 1998 for *Capital Radio*.

The new broadcasting legislation also contemplated a new television-broadcasting scenario for the public service provider. A new company was set up on 27th September 1991 and all operations of the former *Xandir Malta* were transferred to the new service *TVM* operated by the state owned company Public Broadcasting Services Ltd. This included also the already on-air radio stations *Radio Malta 1* on 99.9 MW and *Radio Malta 2* on 93.7 FM.

In June 1993, Parliament amended section 10(5) of the Broadcasting Act. The original version limited one broadcasting service to one broadcasting licensee requiring, in effect, that a radio licensee could not obtain a television licence without first relinquishing control over the company which owned the radio service. The amendment allowed an organisation, person, or company to be editorially responsible for not more than one radio service and not more than one television service. On 22nd February 1993 Government assigned to the Authority the UHF channels 21 and 29 for which the Authority had already received an application from the Malta Labour Party to cover also television broadcasts.

The two assigned channels were subject to varying degrees of interference from the Italian stations *Canale 5* and *TVR Sicilia* and representations had to be made by Government with the Italian authorities to clear the two television channels which had been internationally assigned to Malta by the Stockholm Convention. On 20th August 1993, the Malta Labour Party commenced television test transmissions on UHF channel 43 while a licence was issued to *Super One Television* on 25th February 1994 to operate on channel 29, using the transmitter

power of 100 watts at the Authority's antenna at Gharghur and a system of repeaters to achieve nationwide coverage. *Super One Television* also started using the cable system during the last quarter of 1994.

A second television broadcasting licence was issued to Smash Communications Ltd. on 27th October 1994, authorising the company to operate *Smash TV* on the cable television system. It commenced broadcasts on 19th November 1994. During the last quarter of 1994 another channel *Max Plus* was introduced by the Cable Operator.

The White Paper published in September 1990 and the Broadcasting Act ushered in a new era establishing pluralism in broadcasting and the ending of monopolistic broadcasting. The Authority was tasked with the setting up of a new community TV channel, *Channel 12*, which it would operate itself. In addition, an educational channel was to be provided by the Education Department in consultation with the Authority. *Xandir Malta* was hived-off from the *Telemalta Corporation* and absorbed in a limited liability company – *Public Broadcasting Services Ltd*. The removal of broadcasting barriers, which had shielded the public service monopoly in broadcasting together with the advent of a cable television network and the fast expanding FM radio stations in 1992, required more than the premises held at Blata-I-Bajda, which had accommodated the Authority since 1971. They were clearly inadequate for these requirements which included television and training studio space, as well as room for offices and technical support, editing suites for its local productions, and computers to assist in the analysis of performance reports and broadcasting surveys.

Following the Authority's decision to build offices and studios suitable for its requirements, a rather lengthy process ensued for the selection and purchase of an appropriate site as well as for the preparation and approval of purpose-built facilities. In March 1994 construction work on a new office building started at Mile End Road, Hamrun, and by September 1995 the Authority moved into its newly built office premises. By that time a television studio of 100 square meters, located mainly underground, was in its final stages of completion for the Authority's community television station (*Channel 12*), which became fully operational on 29th September 1996 via the cable television service under the direct control of the Broadcasting Authority.

Soon after its inauguration, *Channel 12* concentrated on placing its human and technical resources at the disposal of those organisations with a commitment towards social and cultural progress where Local Councils and philanthropic societies featured prominently in the station's programme schedules. In its brief existence, in fact, the Outside Broadcasting Unit that was donated by Melita Cable Ltd. as part of its 15-year franchise licence obligations produced 18.6% (337 hours) of all *Channel 12*'s programmes.

In 1997, the reduction in the Authority's budget in line with



Presentation of OB Unit and visit by the Prime Minister, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, to the Authority's Studios. September 1996



the Government's policy of rationalizing public broadcasting resources meant that the Authority could no longer continue to operate the Community Channel. As the Authority wanted to ensure that the broadcasting resources it owned would remain in the public domain, discussions with PBS Ltd. started immediately following discussions in March with the Prime Minister on Government's rationalization plans for the public broadcasting sector. When PBS Ltd. signified their disinterest in the package offered, the Authority concluded an agreement with Melita Cable Television Ltd. that fulfilled all the criteria sought by the Authority. However, Melita Cable later pulled out after the Prime Minister described the deal reached as not in the public interest. Subsequently PBS submitted an offer that was closely akin to the one they had previously rejected and negotiations between the Authority and the national broadcasting station were successfully concluded.

Channel 12, the community channel on cable television which began its activity under the direct control of the Broadcasting Authority on 29th September 1996, was hived off to the Public Broadcasting Services Ltd. on 16th January 1998.

In July 1997, Government assigned four UHF television channels to the Authority for use by licensed private nationwide broadcasters. After due consideration test transmissions were authorized on UHF Channel 50 that was allocated to the Nationalist Party – a broadcasting licence was issued on 20th March 1998 to Net TV. Channel 42 was allocated to Smash Communications Ltd. which was already operating a television service on cable.

In August 1999 Max Media Entertainment Ltd. made a formal



Civic Education Campaign, 1990

application for a new TV service *Max Plus*. The station was to broadcast only on the cable network and was allocated the use of channel 18 on this service. Also that same month a formal application was made by a newly set up company, *www.travel*, for a broadcasting licence for overseas digital satellite television and digital interactive HTML contents broadcasting service. The application was referred to the Ministry for Transport and Communications and the Authority was later informed that the station had been granted permission to start test transmissions.

On 1st January 1999 the Authority appointed for the first time in its history its own Chief Executive Officer.

Through the initial stages of pluralism, the Broadcasting Authority concentrated mainly on establishing the various licences issued, and while steadfastly adhering to its legal and constitutional requirements made the pragmatic decision to tolerate shortcomings liable to be found at the outset of these new ventures. As the end of this teething stage, the Authority marked the end of 1994, and while emphasizing that pluralism was intended to offer the public a wide choice of programming at a consistently acceptable level, the Authority embarked on a number of initiatives to increase the quality level of broadcasts.

Following the liberalization of the broadcasting media market, the first such initiatives included:

- 18th February 1993: Seminar – *Current Affairs Programme Guidelines* with keynote speaker Dr Massimo Fichera, the Director-General of *Euronews*
- 11th June 1993: Seminar – *The Effects of Pluralism in Broadcasting*
- 18th February 1994: Seminar – *Balance and Impartiality in Broadcasting*
- 7-18th March 1994: Training course in broadcast journalism held with the cooperation of the Authority, The Strickland Foundation, and the Thomson foundation
- 5th May 1995: Seminar – *The Role of the Broadcasting Authority in a Democratic Society*
- 30th May 1996: Seminar – *The Role of Advertising in Broadcasting Policy* with keynote speaker Prof Dr Bernd-Peter Lange, Director-General of the European Institute for the Media. This was followed by two discussion half-day seminars in August 1996 for station managements and advertising agencies to review a draft advertising code purposely prepared by the Authority
- 27th August 1999: Seminar – *Television Broadcasting in Malta*

Over time, the Authority published several publications related to broadcasting. The first such publication was “The Young Listener” in collaboration with the Department of Education for the Schools Broadcasting Unit of the Broadcasting Authority. This was followed by the publication of the proceedings of several conferences organised by the Authority in 1993-1995. Conscious of the fact that until 1999 no qualitative survey had ever been carried out on a national basis in order to assess the effects of broadcasting on various sectors of Maltese society, the Authority initiated a 3-year plan. This plan involved the annual commissioning of a qualitative survey about the effects that a particular aspect or aspects of broadcasting might have on a specific sector of society. The following qualitative research was thus commissioned by the Authority:

- *Young People and the Broadcasting Media*; Joe Grixti, 1999, examined and evaluated the effects that violence, sex, advertising and product placement as well as programming strategies had on the attitudes or behaviour of young people under 14 years of age.
- *Broadcasting Pluralism in Malta Ten Years Later – A Qualitative Perspective*; Marika Fsadni, 2003, examined the effect of broadcasting pluralism on programme content, broadcasting standards and the public broadcaster.
- *Broadcasting and The Young Adult Consumer*; Joe Grixti, 2004, examined local and global media influences on Maltese youth culture
- *Programmi ta' Kwalità Għat-Tfal*; Aquilina, Axiak, DeBono, Muscat Azzopardi, 2007; research papers and guidelines for audio-visual content for children's programmes through a joint committee between the Authority and the Commissioner for Children
- *Maltese Broadcasting Legislation: Salient Documentation*; Aquilina & Axiak, 2007; Broadcasting Studies Series Vol. 1;
- *Maltese Broadcast Consumer Profile: An Analytical assessment 1999-2006*; Mario Axiak, 2008; Broadcasting Studies Series Vol. 2; and
- *Gender Issues in News Bulletins: A Comparative Analysis between Malta, Cyprus and Ireland*; Joanna Spiteri, 2008; Broadcasting Studies Series Vol. 3.

Another initiative taken by the Authority to improve the level of quality of broadcasts started during 1994 when the Authority announced the launching of a radio and television programme competition that was meant to become an annual event and had the following basic objectives:

- To stimulate healthy competition between broadcasters working in the various television and radio stations.

- To demonstrate that talent is appreciated and rewarded.
- To achieve excellence in television and radio programming which, in turn, would enhance the status of programme producers.

This yearly competition ran from 1995 to 2003¹¹ and for nine consecutive years became the main focus of both local radio and television broadcasting stations. All competed for the Best Programme in one of a list of categories. The awards were highly contested by the producers themselves, but at times they were not awarded as the expected quality was not attained. Starting with six categories in 1995, this list accounted for eleven categories by 2003 for radio as well as for television programmes, an Award for Gender Awareness in the Broadcasting Media, and an Award for the Proper Use of the Maltese Language. A special award for outstanding service to the broadcasting industry was awarded to Charles Arrigo (1995) and to Charles Clews (1997).

While on the one hand the Authority wanted to stimulate healthy competition and at the same time wanted to help local programmes and producers through various initiatives, it wanted to ensure that it could operate as efficiently as possible in the public interest. Section 33 of the Broadcasting Act lays down that: *“The Authority may appoint, or designate any organ, as advisory committees to give advice to the Authority and to any person providing broadcasting services in Malta, on educational and religious matters, on standards of conduct in the advertising of goods or services, and on such other matters as the Authority may determine”*.

In 1999, the Authority appointed five advisory committees¹² for direction with regard to various broadcasting matters dealing with:

- Broadcasting Technology – to advise the Authority regarding developments in broadcasting technology; recommending implementation schedules to the introduction of digital broadcasting and to advise the Authority on the regulatory aspects of such developments.
- Quality and Ethics in Broadcasting – to advise and raise the level of programme standards on public and commercial broadcasting media through programme guidelines aiming at good taste and decency.
- Advertising and other Economic Issues – to advise on the upgrading and revision of the Code of Advertising Standards and Practice (Third Schedule of the Broadcasting Act, Cap 350.) ensuring adequate consumer protection, and to draw up a code of advertising ethics for the broadcasting media.
- News and Current Affairs – to devise an overall plan for the improvement of present output of news and current affairs programming on public and commercial broadcasting services through the updating of such codes of standards and practice for the attainment of good journalistic practices.
- Gender Issues in the Broadcasting Media – to advise on the introduction and adaptation of guidelines concerning gender issues in programme content; the introduction of equality of opportunity in the granting or renewing of broadcasting licences; and in the preparation of contact lists of a gender-balanced database of experts for use by producers in the area of news and factual programming.



Mr Antoine J. Ellul, the longest serving Chief Executive of the Broadcasting Authority, flanked by Prof Joseph M. Pirotta, Chairman, on the left and Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes, Board Member, on the right

¹¹ See Appendix II for a full list of Categories and Winners of the Annual Programme Awards 1995 - 2003

¹² See Appendix V for a full list of Advisory Committees appointed by the Broadcasting Authority

By the end of 1999 the Authority was in a position, amongst others:

- to properly ensure the preservation of due impartiality in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy;
- to fairly apportion broadcasting facilities and time between persons belonging to different political parties by organizing its own political broadcasts;
- to act as a sound and television broadcasting regulator;
- to draft broadcasting legislation for Government's and parliament's approval;
- to award radio and television licences for both nationwide as well as on community basis;
- to monitor broadcasting stations and regulate their performance in terms of their legal and licensing obligations;
- to ensure that a wide range of broadcasting services catering for a variety of tastes and interests were available;
- to ensure fair and effective competition of the provision of these services;
- to produce civil educational campaigns on broadcasting media;
- to organise annual broadcasting seminars and launch research grants commissioning qualitative and quantitative studies on broadcasting related subjects;
- to establish a diversity database for use by broadcasters; and
- to formulate broadcasting standards on various aspects of broadcasting.

With regard to international relations, the Broadcasting Authority was always very active within broadcasting regulatory networks and other international fora. It hosted several international conferences locally. Such networks included World Summit for Regulators, International Telecommunications Union; UNESCO; the European Broadcasting Union (EBU); the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA); the Council of Europe (COE); the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA); the European Television and Film Forum, and the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA).

In fact, the Authority is a founding member of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) that was set up in 1995 during a meeting held in Malta with the following primary functions:

- to provide a forum for informal discussion and exchange of views between regulatory authorities in the broadcasting media;
- to constitute a forum for exchange of information about common issues of national and European media regulation; and
- to encourage discussions and seek to find practical solutions to legal problems regarding the interpretation and application of media regulations.

Various familiarisation visits by the Authority and its Members, as well as some of its staff, were also made during the course of its operations. Entities visited include the BBC

Worldwide Television, the French Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA), and the European Institute for the Media amongst a host of others.

2000 - 2011

The first ten years of the new millennium proved to be as challenging for the Broadcasting Authority as the previous decennials. A major upgrading of the Monitoring Department commenced during 1999 and the first and second phases of the Authority's IT programme were in place by the end of 2000. This included the launching of its web-page in May 1999 and the computerization of the Authority (Phase 1). An appropriate database (Phase 2) was introduced to render the Monitoring Department more efficient, considering that its role is closely linked to the Authority's key constitutional function. Phase 3, which envisaged a centralized archiving digitized capturing system of all broadcast radio and television systems, commenced in 2006 through the issue of a call for expressions of interest with draft specifications and the drawing up of an eventual tender document.

Up until the 1990's through the Ordinance of 1961, the Broadcasting authority had to resort to judicial decrees to maintain balance and impartiality and, very often, the recourse sought by the Authority could be easily overturned through Government's diktat. Over time, the Authority had introduced a system under which stations facing a complaint were summoned to a hearing at which the parties involved put their side of the case to the Authority before the latter decided the outcome. Through the Broadcasting Act of 1991, the legislator had built on this practice. While every decision reached by the Authority remains subject to judicial review, the Authority was in a position to publish regulations under which public hearings were to be held. On 1st September 2000 these regulations were published through Legal Notice 161 (Code for the Investigation and Determination of Complaints) and L. N. 162 of 2000 (Special Administrative Procedure Regulations). The Broadcasting Act was also amended to ensure that any fine imposed has first to be paid before a judicial review of the Authority's decision could be sought.

The Advisory Committees set up by the Authority in 1999 were soon to prove their worth. By 2001, the Advisory Committee on Advertising and other Economic Issues in the Broadcasting Media was responsible for the issue of three sets of Guidelines: the advertising of alcoholic drinks; the advertising of Medicines, Treatments, Health Claims, Nutrition and Dietary Supplements; and the advertising of Financial Services and Products. The Advisory Committee on Quality and Ethics in Broadcasting recommended guidelines on the ethical coverage of tragedies and the correct use of Maltese in broadcasting; and concluded a qualitative study on Good Quality Television – a document for public discussion that was published and received a wide and highly positive response. The Advisory Committee on News and Current Affairs prepared a draft report on the updating of the Codes



5th Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities hosted by the Broadcasting Authority
31st May 1st June 2001

covering News and Current Affairs that came into effect during 2002. The Advisory Committee on Gender issues organised, on behalf of the Authority, a two-week training course at Radio Telefis Éireann, Dublin, on Gender Awareness in the Broadcasting Media for fourteen employees of various local stations after the Authority successfully applied for a placement under the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Union. For the first time, a prize for Gender Awareness in the Broadcasting Media was awarded.

At the start of this decennial, on 1st August 2000 the Malta Communications Authority was set up through Act XVIII of 2000 to regulate electronic communications, certain aspects of data protection in electronic communication, postal services, electronic commerce and similar areas in the field of communications. With immediate effect, close links between the Broadcasting Authority and the MCA were established, and on 30th July 2004 the Department of Wireless Telegraphy – the Broadcasting Authority's technical advisor – was integrated into this new Authority. The assignment of frequencies became the prerogative of the MCA.

Financial constraints during 2004 required the Authority to restructure or discontinue a number of its activities. The Authority's annual Programme Awards for radio and television was not held, the Authority did not appoint any Advisory Committees ... and no new initiatives in qualitative research were undertaken (B.A., 2004). Although the Authority was no longer in a financial position to appoint its own Advisory Committees, contacts with other government agencies were soon established.

In this respect, the Broadcasting Authority continued to co-operate with the *Akkademyja tal-Malti* in order to raise the level of both spoken and written Maltese on the broadcasting Media through the publication of a list of information technology terminology that was to be used by the broadcasting media. With the newly appointed Commission for Children, the Authority set up a sub-committee aimed at updating the Broadcasting Code for the Protection of Minors by focusing



14th Meeting of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities hosted by the Broadcasting Authority,
27th - 28th September 2001

primarily on providing guidelines for good quality programmes for children. And with the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality between Men and Women, a sub-committee was set up to render easier and to co-ordinate better on items of mutual interest to both organisations. Following submissions received from the Commissioner for Children, Aġenzija Appoġġ, the Maltese Psychological Association and the Maltese Association of Social Workers, the Authority revised its Guidelines on the Portrayal of Vulnerable Persons in the Broadcasting Media. These had originally come into being after the National Commission Persons With Disability (KNPD) had complained to the Broadcasting Authority on the negative portrayal of disabled people in a number of fund-raising programmes. Through its Advisory Committee on Quality and Ethics, and in consultation with the KNPD, the Authority drew up the said Code in 2004.

Again the Authority was not constituted during April to June and October to December of 2005. The Chairman and all the Board Members were not in office for the duration of said periods. The same Authority was reconstituted on 24th June for three months with the same members, their appointment being back-dated to 1st April. Similarly, on 22nd December 2005 the Authority was reconstituted back-dated from 1st October 2005.

In 2006 the Authority set up an advisory committee on medicinal products and medicinal treatment advertising with the aim of drawing up guidelines to assist radio and television broadcasters in grasping better the legal provisions regulating this sector as well as to develop a code of ethics as to what should be considered acceptable ethical behaviour in broadcast media. The Committee consisted of a representative of the Director General (Health), the Medical Council, the Pharmacy Council, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine, the Medicines Authority, and the Consumer Affairs Council.

In view of the envisaged development in digital technology, the migration from analogue to digital radio and high definition broadcasting, new media platforms, and satellite broadcasting

licensing, to name just a few, during 2006 the Authority compiled its first Business Plan to cover the period 2007-2009 and approved a Vision Statement and a Mission Statement. During this year, the Authority and the MCA set up a Task Force on Community Radio Stations to develop a policy for the assignment of spectrum and coverage areas as well as the identification of the necessary amendment to the Broadcasting Act, the Electronic Communications (Regulation) Act, and the Electronic Communications Networks and Services Regulations. During the same year, the Authority and the MCA formulated their advice to Government on the evolution of digital terrestrial television in view of the technical developments which had taken place and in so far as “must carry and general interest objective” are concerned.

On 11th July 2008 the first satellite broadcasting licence was issued by the Authority to BuzzTV Ltd. At the time only the Minister responsible for communications was empowered to issue such a licence unless he delegated such a function to the Broadcasting Authority. Legal Notice 175 of 2008 was issued by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications empowering the Broadcasting Authority to issue on behalf of Government a licence to this company to broadcast a television service, the uplink being in Slovenia. Essentially a generalist station, *Buzz TV* went off the air in July 2009, the owners citing technical difficulties with the uplink. The licence for this station was revoked by the Authority on 7th December 2009.

In July 2009 the Broadcasting Act was amended in order to provide a more detailed licensing regime for the regulation of satellite radio and television services. And in 2010, for the first time, the Authority issued its first licence for satellite transmissions to a Belgian based company *Icon Europe* for a number of thematic satellite television stations (sixteen channels including one Teleshopping Channel) targeting the Turkish speaking community in Central Asia and Central and Eastern Europe.

Test transmission on the first digital radio platform started on 1st July 2008 and on 1st October the same year the Authority issued a broadcasting licence for four years to DigiB Networks Ltd which had already been licensed by the M.C.A. with regard to spectrum frequency allocation. A number of foreign radio channels started being rebroadcast on this platform, together with the simulcasting of nearly all the locally originating FM radio stations. And by the end of the year, the first community radio station, Christian Light Radio, was also licensed by the Authority to simulcast on this DAB+ platform.

On the 1st of May 2004 Malta took its place as a Member State of the European Union. At the time Malta was fully compliant with the European Union Television Without Frontiers Directive. The basis of this Directive was the protection of the home market of the broadcasting industry of the original Member States. However, with the increase of ten new Member States in 2004, the European Union soon realized that its Directive on Television Without Frontiers had to be amended. Rather than promoting quality in programming through regulation, the new Directive – the Audiovisual Media Services Directive – promoted quality in programming through the liberalization of broadcasting regulations (such as allowing product placement in programmes), thus making European programmes more competitive on the international market.

The European Union Audiovisual Media Services Directive (Directive 2007/65/EC) was formally adopted on 11th December 2007 and was to be transposed by Member States by the 15th December 2009. The process for the implementation of the AVMS directive started off on 20th November 2007 with a conference for stakeholders organized by the Malta Forum in Europe in collaboration with TAIEX and the Media Desk within the Ministry for Tourism and Culture entitled *The New Media Landscape: Audiovisual Media Services Without Frontiers*. On 3rd September 2008 the Minister responsible for broadcasting appointed a Working Group on the Audio Visual Media Services Directive and a consultation document on the transposition of the Directive was published. This Working Group concluded its task on 26th January 2009 and submitted its report to the Minister concerned. On 4th June 2010, the AVMS Directive was implemented in the Broadcasting Act, Cap. 350 of the Laws of Malta through Act IV of 2010 and Legal Notices 320-326.

On February 2009 a Policy and Strategy Document for Digital Broadcasting that meets General Interest Objectives was launched by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications in collaboration with the Broadcasting Authority and the Malta Communications Authority highlighting the changes expected for digital switchover from analogue terrestrial to digital broadcasting. A new digital platform for free-to-air stations was set up and a multiplex licence was issued to the state broadcaster, i.e. PBS Ltd. as the operator of this digital platform which was to carry up to six stations, including *TVM* and *Education 22* which are considered to be *de facto* general interest objective stations. On 21st June 2011, Legal Notice 240 of 2011 was published in the Government Gazette, setting out the criteria to be adopted in the selection of television services that fulfill general interest objective criteria to broadcast on the digital free-to-air platform. The analogue signal was switched off on 31st October 2011.

Appendix I

Members of the Broadcasting Authority

30th September 1961 – 31st March 1962

Chairman

Mr E. G. Arrigo, C.B.E. Appointed on 24th August 1961 through Press Release from the Palace; Formally appointed on 16th February 1962 - G.N. No. 121 of 1962]

Lt. Col. G. C. Micallef-Eynaud

Members

Mrs Inez Galea, O.B.E. Appointed on 29th September 1961 – G.N. 457 of 1961

Rev Fr Charles G. Vella Appointed on 29th September 1961 – G.N. 457 of 1961; Nominated by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta

Prof V. Caruana Galizia, O.B.E. Appointed on 29th September 1961 – G.N. 457 of 1961; Nominated by the Vice-Chancellor and Rector Magnificus of the Royal University of Malta

Mr E. Staines O.B.E. Appointed on 16th February 1962 – G.N. 121 of 1962

Mr E. C. Tabone Appointed on 16th February 1962 – G.N. 121 of 1962

Chief Executive

Mr G. K. Brown Appointed on 29th September 1961 – G.N. 457 of 1961

Secretary

A. J. Bellizzi

1st April 1962 – 31st March 1963

Chairman

Mr E. G. Arrigo, C.B.E.

Members

Lt. Col. G. C. Micallef-Eynaud

Mrs Inez Galea, O.B.E.

Rev Fr Charles G. Vella Until 27th August 1962

Rev Mgr. E. Vella D.D., B.L.Can., PH.D. Appointed on 28th August 1962 – G.N. 370 of 1962; Nominated by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta

Prof V. Caruana Galizia, O.B.E.

Mr E. Staines O.B.E.

Mr E. C. Tabone

Chief Executive

Mr G. K. Brown

Secretary

A. J. Bellizzi

1st April 1963 – 31st March 1964

Chairman

Mr E. G. Arrigo, C.B.E.

Members

Lt. Col. G. C. Micallef-Eynaud

Mrs Inez Galea, O.B.E.

Rev Mgr. E. Vella D.D., B.L.Can., PH.D.

Prof V. Caruana Galizia, O.B.E.

Mr E. Staines O.B.E.

Mr E. C. Tabone

Chief Executive

Mr G. K. Brown Until 13th July 1963

Mr J. Manduca Appointed on 14th July 1963

Secretary

Mr A. J. Bellizzi Until 6th September 1963

Mr A. Ellul Appointed on 7th September 1963

1st April 1964 – 31st March 1965

Chairman

Mr E. G. Arrigo, C.B.E. Until 28th September 1964

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., LL.D. Appointed on 29th September 1964 – G.N. 527 of 1964

Members

Lt. Col. G. C. Micallef-Eynaud Until 28th September 1964

Mrs Inez Galea, O.B.E. Until 28th September 1964

Rev Mgr. E. Vella D.D., B.L.Can., PH.D. Until 28th September 1964

Prof V. Caruana Galizia, O.B.E. Until 28th September 1964

Mr E. Staines O.B.E. Until 28th September 1964

Mr E. C. Tabone Until 28th September 1964

Dr V. A. Mercieca, LL.D. Appointed on 29th September 1964 – G.N. 527 of 1964

Mr G. Muscat Azzopardi Appointed on 29th September 1964 – G.N. 527 of 1964

Rev P. Serracino Inglott B.A., B.D., M.A. (Oxon) Appointed on 29th September 1964 – G.N. 527 of 1964

Mr J. Vella Appointed on 29th September 1964 – G.N. 527 of 1964

Chief Executive

Mr J. Manduca

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1965 – 31st March 1966

Chairman

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., Gr. Off. Mer.,
O.St.J., LL.D.

Members

Dr V. A. Mercieca, LL.D.
Mr G. Muscat Azzopardi
Rev P. Serracino Inglott B.A., B.D., M.A. (Oxon)
Mr J. Vella

Chief Executive

Mr J. Manduca

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1966 – 31st March 1967

Chairman

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., Gr. Off. Mer.,
O.St.J., LL.D.

Members

Dr V. A. Mercieca, LL.D.
Mr G. Muscat Azzopardi
Rev P. Serracino Inglott B.A., B.D., M.A. (Oxon)
Mr J. Vella

Chief Executive

Mr J. Manduca

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1967 – 31st March 1968

Chairman

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., Gr. Off. Mer.,
O.St.J., LL.D.

Members

Dr V. A. Mercieca, LL.D.
Mr G. Muscat Azzopardi
Rev P. Serracino Inglott B.A., B.D., M.A. (Oxon)
Mr J. Vella

Chief Executive

Mr J. Manduca

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1968 – 31st March 1969

Chairman

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., Gr. Off. Mer.,
O.St.J., LL.D.

Members

Dr V. A. Mercieca, LL.D.
Rev P. Serracino Inglott B.A., B.D., M.A. (Oxon)
Mr G. Muscat Azzopardi Until 28th September 1968
Mr J. Vella Until 28th March 1968
Mr L. Spiteri Dip. Soc. Stud. (Oxon) Appointed on 29th
September 1968
Dr J. M. Agius M.D. Appointed on 29th March 1968

Chief Executive

Mr J. Manduca Until 17th November 1968

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1969 – 31st March 1970

Chairman

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., Gr. Off. Mer.,
O.St.J., LL.D.

Members

Dr V. A. Mercieca, LL.D. Until 28th September 1969
Rev P. Serracino Inglott B.A., B.D., M.A. (Oxon) Until
December 1969
Mr L. Spiteri Dip. Soc. Stud. (Oxon)
Dr J. M. Agius M.D.
Mr F. Masini B.A., L.P. Appointed on 29th September 1969
Dr F. Depasquale, B.A., LL.D. Appointed on 29th March 1970

Chief Executive

Vacant

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1970 – 31st March 1971

Chairman

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., Gr. Off. Mer.,
O.St.J., LL.D.

Members

Mr L. Spiteri Dip. Soc. Stud. (Oxon) Until 29th November 1970
Dr J. M. Agius M.D.
Mr F. Masini B.A., L.P.
Dr F. Depasquale, B.A., LL.D.
Mr P. Sciberras Appointed 30th November 1970

Chief Executive

Vacant

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1971 – 31st July 1972

Chairman

Hon. A. Montanaro-Gauci C.B.E., K.M., Gr. Off. Mer.,
O.St.J., LL.D. Until 28th September 1971
Chev. J. P. Vassallo O.B.E. Appointed on 29th September 1971
Dr George De Gaetano LL.D. Appointed temporary member
and Acting Chairman during absence from Malta of Chev. J.
P. Vassallo O.B.E.

Members

Dr J. M. Agius M.D. Until 28th September 1971
Mr F. Masini B.A., L.P. Until 28th September 1971
Dr F. Depasquale, B.A., LL.D. Until 28th September 1971
Mr P. Sciberras Until 28th September 1971
Mr Gontran Borg F.C.I.S., C.P.A., F.R.Econ.S., A.T.I.I.,
D.P.A. Appointed on 29th September 1971
Not. Ph. Saliba LL.D. Appointed on 29th September 1971
Mr E. C. Tabone Appointed on 29th September 1971
Dr J. Fenech LL.D., B.A. (Hons.) Appointed on 29th
September 1971

Chief Executive

Joseph Grima Appointed on 2nd November 1971

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st August 1972 – 31st July 1973

Chairman

Chev. J. P. Vassallo O.B.E. Until 17th April 1973
Dr George De Gaetano LL.D. Appointed Acting Chairman
during absence from Malta of Chev. J. P. Vassallo O.B.E.
Dr V. Falzon Appointed on 18th April 1973

Members

Mr Gontran Borg F.C.I.S., C.P.A., F.R.Econ.S., A.T.I.I.,
D.P.A.
Not. Ph. Saliba LL.D.
Mr E. C. Tabone
Dr J. Fenech LL.D., B.A. (Hons.)

Chief Executive

Joseph Grima

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st August 1973 – 31st July 1974

Chairman

Dr V. Falzon Until March 1974
Chev. Prof C. Coleiro M.D. Appointed in April 1974

Members

Mr Gontran Borg F.C.I.S., C.P.A., F.R.Econ.S., A.T.I.I.,
D.P.A.
Not. Ph. Saliba LL.D. Until March 1974
Mr E. C. Tabone

Dr J. Fenech LL.D., B.A. (Hons.) Until March 1974

Dr A. Manche LL.D. Appointed in April 1974

Mr N. Debono Appointed in April 1974

Chief Executive

Joseph Grima

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st August 1974 – 31st March 1975

Chairman

Chev. Prof C. Coleiro M.D.

Members

Mr Gontran Borg F.C.I.S., C.P.A., F.R.Econ.S., A.T.I.I.,
D.P.A.
Mr E. C. Tabone
Dr A. Manche LL.D.
Mr N. Debono

Chief Executive

Joseph Grima

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1975 – 31st March 1976

Chairman

Chev. Prof C. Coleiro M.D.

Members

Mr Gontran Borg F.C.I.S., C.P.A., F.R.Econ.S., A.T.I.I.,
D.P.A.
Mr E. C. Tabone
Dr A. Manche LL.D.
Mr N. Debono

Chief Executive

Joseph Grima Until 1st June 1976

Secretary

Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1976 – 31st March 1977

Chairman

Chev. Prof C. Coleiro M.D. Until 3rd June 1976
Brig. G. V. Micallef Appointed 4th June to 27th September 1976
Dr G. Montanaro-Gauci LL.D. Appointed on 18th October
1976

Members

Mr Gontran Borg F.C.I.S., C.P.A., F.R.Econ.S., A.T.I.I.,
D.P.A. Until 3rd June 1976
Mr E. C. Tabone Until 27th September 1976
Dr A. Manche LL.D.
Mr N. Debono

Mr R. Dalli Appointed on 4th June 1976
Mr R. Matrenza D. Pol. Econ. (Oxon), F. R. Econ. S.
Appointed on 18th October 1976

Chief Executive
Vacant

Secretary
Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1977 – 31st March 1978

Chairman

Dr G. Montanoro-Gauci LL.D. Appointed on 18th October 1976

Members
Dr A. Manche LL.D.
Mr N. Debono
Mr R. Dalli
Mr R. Matrenza D. Pol. Econ. (Oxon), F. R. Econ. S.

Chief Executive
Vacant

Secretary
Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1978 – 31st March 1979

Chairman

Dr G. Montanoro-Gauci LL.D. Until 26th October 1978
Mr Godfrey Graig Appointed on 27th October 1978

Members
Dr A. Manche LL.D.
Mr N. Debono
Mr R. Dalli
Mr R. Matrenza D. Pol. Econ. (Oxon), F. R. Econ. S.

Chief Executive
Vacant

Secretary
Mr A. Ellul

1st April 1979 – 31st December 1979

Chairman

Mr Godfrey Graig Until 6th November 1979
Mr C. Montebello Appointed on 7th November 1979

Members
Dr A. Manche LL.D. Until 6th November 1979
Mr N. Debono Until 6th November 1979
Mr R. Dalli
Mr R. Matrenza D. Pol. Econ. (Oxon), F. R. Econ. S.
Resigned on 19th December 1979
Mr Angelo Fenech Appointed on 7th November 1979

Mr A. V. Mallia Appointed on 7th November 1979
Mr J. A. Manduca Appointed on 7th November 1979

Chief Executive
Vacant

Secretary
Mr A. Ellul

1st January – 31st December 1980

Chairman

Mr C. Montebello Appointed on 7th November 1979

Members
Mr R. Dalli
Mr Angelo Fenech
Mr A. V. Mallia
Mr J. A. Manduca

Chief Executive
Vacant

Secretary
Mr A. Ellul

1st January – 31st December 1981

Chairman

Mr C. Montebello Until 20th January 1981
Prof Edwin Busuttill B.A., LL.D., M.A. (Oxon), B.Litt.
(Oxon) Appointed 21st January to 5th May 1981
Mr E. A. Bonello C.P.A., F.C.I., F.L.S.A. Appointed 23rd
October 1981

Members
Mr R. Dalli
Mr Angelo Fenech
Mr A. V. Mallia Resigned end of December 1981
Mr J. A. Manduca Resigned end of December 1981

Chief Executive
Mr F. S. Carbone Appointed on 22nd January 1981

Secretary
Mr A. Ellul Until 22nd January 1981

1st January – 31st December 1982

Chairman

Mr E. A. Bonello C.P.A., F.C.I., F.L.S.A. Until 20th July –
extended to 31st December 1982

Members
Mr R. Dalli Until 20th July – extended to 31st December 1982
Mr Angelo Fenech Until 20th July – extended to 31st December 1982

Chief Executive
Mr F. S. Carbone

Secretary

Vacant/post abolished

“held by the Court that the Authority was no longer validly constituted ... after the Authority’s current term ending on the 20th July ... since the mere renewal of the appointment of those three of its (remaining) members at the end of their term of office could not substitute its actual constitution in terms of the Constitution which requires that the Authority be made up of a Chairman and at least four members.”

Twenty-Second Annual Report Year ended 31st December 1982; pg.4

1st January 1983 – 31st December 1985

Chairman

Vacant

Members

Vacant

Chief Executive

Mr F. S. Carbone March 1983 also appointed Chairman of TeleMalta Corporation – the broadcasting contractor to the Authority

Secretary

Vacant

1st January – 31st December 1986

Chairman

Dr Joseph Micallef Stafrace, B.A., LL.D. 18th July 1986

Members

Mr Lawrence Mizzi Appointed on 18th July 1986

Mr J. J. Camilleri, B.A., M.A., A.I.E. (Lond.) Appointed on 18th July 1986

Mr J. Sammut Appointed on 18th July 1986

Mr M. Spiteri Appointed on 18th July 1986

Chief Executive

Mr F. S. Carbone Relinquished chairmanship of TeleMalta Corporation from 1st October 1986

Secretary

Mr H. Zammit Cordina From 24th July 1986

1st January – 31st December 1987

Chairman

Dr Joseph Micallef Stafrace, B.A., LL.D.

Members

Mr Lawrence Mizzi, S.Th.Dip.

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

Mr J. Sammut

Mr M. Spiteri Until 13th May

Dr Kenneth Wain B.A. (Hons.) (Lond.), M.A., Dip.Ed. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Lond.) From 22nd July

Chief Executive

Mr F. S. Carbone Until July 1987

Mr A. Ellul From July 1987

Secretary

Mr H. Zammit Cordina

1st January – 31st December 1988

Chairman

Dr Joseph Micallef Stafrace, B.A., LL.D.

Members

Mr Lawrence Mizzi, S.Th.Dip.

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

Mr J. Sammut

Dr Kenneth Wain B.A. (Hons.) (Lond.), M.A., Dip.Ed. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Lond.)

Chief Executive

Mr A. Ellul

Secretary

Mr H. Zammit Cordina

1st January – 31st December 1989

Chairman

Dr Joseph Micallef Stafrace, B.A., LL.D. Until 21st July

Mr Lawrence Mizzi, S.Th.Dip. From 22nd July

Members

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

Dr Austin Sammut B.A. (Hons.), LL.D. From 22nd July

Mr J. Sammut

Dr Kenneth Wain B.A. (Hons.) (Lond.), M.A., Dip.Ed. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Lond.)

Chief Executive

Mr A. Ellul

Secretary

Mr H. Zammit Cordina

1st January – 31st December 1990

Chairman

Mr Lawrence Mizzi, S.Th.Dip.

Members

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

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

Mr J. Sammut

Dr Kenneth Wain B.A. (Hons.) (Lond.), M.A., Dip.Ed. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Lond.)

Chief Executive

Mr A. Ellul

Secretary

Mr H. Zammit Cordina

1st January – 31st December 1991

Chairman

Mr Lawrence Mizzi, S.Th.Dip.

Members

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

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

Mr J. Sammut

Dr Kenneth Wain B.A. (Hons.) (Lond.), M.A., Dip.Ed.
(Lond.), Ph.D. (Lond)

Chief Executive

Mr A. Ellul

Secretary

Mr H. Zammit Cordina

1st January - 31st December 1992

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 Joe Sammut

Mr Kenneth Wain B.A. (Hons.) (Lond), M.A. Dip. Ed.
(Lond) Ph.D (Lond)

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul

Secretary

Mr Harry Zammit Cordina

1st January - 31st December 1993

Chairman

Mr Laurence Mizzi S. Th. Dip. Until 21st July

Dr Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading) From 22nd July

Members

Mr Joseph J. Camilleri B.A., M.A., A.I.E.(Lond) Until 21st July

Dr Austin Sammut B.A. (Hons.), LL.D Until 21st July

Mr Joe Sammut Until 21st July

Prof Kenneth Wain B.A. (Hons.) (Lond), M.A., Dip. Ed.
(Lond), Ph. D (Lond) Until 21st July

Dr Dominic Fenech B.A. (Hons.), D. Phil. (Oxon). From 22nd July

Prof Joe Friggieri D. Phil. (Oxon). Ph. D. (Milan), B.A. From 22nd July

Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc. From 22nd July

Mr Charles Mizzi From 22nd July

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul

Secretary

Mr Harry Zammit Cordina

1st January - 31st December 1994

Chairman

Dr Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Dominic Fenech B.A. (Hons.), D. Phil. (Oxon).

Prof Joe Friggieri D. Phil. (Oxon). Ph. D. (Milan), B.A.

Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc.

Mr Charles Mizzi

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul

Secretary

Mr Harry Zammit Cordina

1st January - 31st December 1995

Chairman

Dr Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Dominic Fenech B.A. (Hons.), D. Phil. (Oxon).

Prof Joe Friggieri D. Phil. (Oxon). Ph. D. (Milan), B.A.

Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc.

Mr Charles Mizzi

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul

Secretary

Mr Harry Zammit Cordina

1st January - 31st December 1996

Chairman

Dr Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Dominic Fenech B.A. (Hons.), D. Phil. (Oxon).

Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes

Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc.

Mr Charles Mizzi

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul

Secretary

Mr Harry Zammit Cordina

1st January - 31st December 1997

Chairman

Prof Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Dominic Fenech B.A. (Hons.), D. Phil. (Oxon).
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc.
Mr Charles Mizzi

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul

Secretary

Mr Harry Zammit Cordina

Designate Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar 1st April 1997

1st January - 31st December 1998

Chairman

Prof Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Dominic Fenech B.A. (Hons.), D. Phil. (Oxon).
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc.
Mr Charles Mizzi

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul

Secretary

Mr Harry Zammit Cordina Retired 31st December 1998

Designate Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 1999

Chairman

Prof Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Dominic Fenech B.A. (Hons.), D. Phil. (Oxon). Until 31st March 1999
Mr Charles Mizzi Until 31st March 1999
Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D From 1st April 1999
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc.
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P. From 1st April 1999

Chief Executive

Mr Antoine Ellul Until 31st December 1999

Chief Executive Designate

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond) From 11th January 1999

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar From 1st January 1999

1st January - 31st December 2000

Chairman

Prof Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc.
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)
1st January 2000

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2001

Chairman

Prof Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Mr Lino Mintoff B.A. (Gen), B.A. (Hons) Soc. Resigned 1st May 2001
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Mr Antoine J. Ellul Appointed 1st May 2001

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2002

Chairman

Prof Joseph M. Pirotta B.A. Ph.D. (Reading)
Until 31st March 2002

Chief Justice Emeritus Dr Joseph Said Pullicino B.A. (Hons.), LL.D From 1st April 2002

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes Until 31st March 2002
Mr Antoine J. Ellul
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze) From 1st April 2002

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2003

Chairman

Chief Justice Emeritus Dr Joseph Said Pullicino B.A.
(Hons.), LL.D

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Antoine J. Ellul
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2004

Chairman

Chief Justice Emeritus Dr Joseph Said Pullicino B.A.
(Hons.), LL.D

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Antoine J. Ellul
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st Decemebr 2005

Chairman

Chief Justice Emeritus Dr Joseph Said Pullicino B.A.
(Hons.), LL.D Resigned on 12th December 2005

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Antoine J. Ellul Until 31st December 2005
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2006

Chairman

Mr Joseph Scicluna B.A. Appointed 1st January 2006

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes 1st January 2006
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2007

Chairman

Mr Joseph Scicluna B.A.

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2008

Chairman

Mr Joseph Scicluna B.A.

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D
Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes
Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.
Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar

1st January - 31st December 2009

Chairman

Mr Joseph Scicluna B.A.

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D

Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes

Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.

Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Dr Kevin Aquilina MA, LL.D, LL.M, Ph.D (Lond)

Resigned 28th February 2009

Mr Pierre Cassar M.Sc.,B.A. (Hons) From 1st March 2009

Secretary

Mr Edgar P. Cassar Retired 17th April 2009

Dr Simon Manicolo LL.D From 13th April 2009

1st January - 31st December 2010

Chairman

Mr Joseph Scicluna B.A.

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D

Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes

Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.

Dr Joseph Pace Asciak B.A. (Hons.), D. Litt. (Firenze)

Chief Executive

Mr Pierre Cassar M.Sc.,B.A. (Hons)

Secretary

Dr Simon Manicolo LL.D

1st January 2011

Chairman

Mr Anthony J. Tabone Dip.MRS, MCIM

Members

Dr Reno Borg B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.D

Mr Alfred Mallia Milanes

Mrs Rose Sciberras B.A.(Hons.), L.P.

Dr Peter Fenech LL.D., M.A.

Chief Executive

Mr Pierre Cassar M.Sc.,B.A. (Hons)

Secretary

Dr Simon Manicolo LL.D.

Appendix II

Programme Awards

The Programme Awards were launched on 31st May 1994 by Dr Joseph M. Pirotta, Chairman of the Authority at a press conference held at the offices of the Authority. The basic objectives of this competition, which was meant to become an annual event, were:

- To stimulate healthy competition between broadcasters working in the various radio and television stations;
- To demonstrate that talent is appreciated and rewarded; and
- To achieve excellence in radio and television programming which, in turn, will enhance the status of programme producers.

For the first edition of the Programme Awards six programme categories were identified: Drama, Current Affairs; Documentaries/Magazine programmes; Children's programmes; Light entertainment; and Sport programmes. By the last edition held in 2003, the list of categories had risen to ten with the additional awards for Gender Awareness in the Broadcasting Media, a special trophy for the Proper Use of the Maltese Language, and a Special Achievement Award. This nine-year feat of the Authority could not have been possible were it not for the large number of people involved. While for the first editions all entries were considered as finalists, by 2003 all entries were thoroughly screened beforehand by specialized adjudicating boards and the top three entries in each category competed for the award.



Launch of the Broadcasting Authority Programme Awards, 31st May 1994



Charles Arrigo, 1995
For Outstanding Service to Broadcasting

The first adjudicating panel was composed of the Chief Executive of the Authority, Anthone J. Ellul together with Lewis Portelli, Michael Fenech, Denise Vella, Michael Bonello, Dr Paul Xuereb, Lino Cachia, Maurice Tanti Burlò, Joe Borg Ghigo, Christine Vella Borda and Vanessa MacDonald. And for the first edition thirty-six radio programmes and nineteen television programmes were entered for the competition.



Award for Gender Awareness
in the Broadcasting Media, 2002



Charles Clews, 1997
For Outstanding Service to Broadcasting

Programme Awards Winners

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Drama	RADIO	<i>Macbeth</i>	<i>Is-Soru Li</i>		<i>Ghiddi Missier Jekk il-Gwerra Spiccatx</i>	<i>Il-Maqdes Ta' Fuq U Il-Maqdes Ta' Isfel</i>	<i>Żaren</i>	<i>Jum Fil-Hajja ta' Natalie Peltier</i>	<i>Dawk Li Fuq L-Ighna Jbahiru</i>
		(John Suda) Radju Ta' L-Universit�	<i>M'emmitx</i> (John Suda) Radju Ta' L-Universit�		(Vanni Riolo) Radju Malta 1	(Gorg Peresso) Radju Malta 1	(Charles Xerri) Radju Ta' L-Universit�	(Gorg Peresso) Radio St. Vincent de Paule	(Joe Vella Bondin) Radju Malta
	TV					<i>Delitti Maltin</i>	<i>Il-Pesta 1813</i>	<i>Il-Madonna Taċ-Ĉoqqa</i>	<i>F' Baħar Wiehed</i>
							(Salvu Mallia & Thomas Weaver) TVM	(Salvu Mallia) Super 1 TV	(John Suda) Super 1 TV
Current Affairs / Discussion	RADIO	Press Cuttings (Charlo' Bonnici) Radju Malta	<i>Eurospecial</i> (Ivan Said) Radju Ta' L-Universit�		<i>Panorama</i> (Joe Flask) Radju Malta 2	<i>Wara l-Aħbar</i> (Joe Flask) Radju Malta 2	<i>Atakk Fuq l�-Ĉivilt�</i> (Joe Flask) Radju Malta		
					<i>Lenti</i>	<i>Lenti</i>	<i>Viva Malta</i>		
	TV	<i>Bir-rispett Kollu</i> (Francis Lia) TVM		<i>Bejn San Luqa u San Raffaele</i> (Reno Bugeja) TVM		(Alfred Must�) TVM	(Alfred Must�) TVM	(Marie Briguglio) TVM	<i>Nigu Għal-Punt</i> (Reno Bugeja) Radju Malta
									<i>Focus - Twelid U Abort</i> (Reno Bugeja) TVM
Documentary / Magazine	RADIO	<i>Rinj�</i>							
		(Gorg Peresso) Radju Malta							
TV		<i>Enigma</i> (Mario Parascandolo) TVM							
Documentary	RADIO		<i>Emmu U Xandru</i>		<i>Kahlil Gibran – Il-Profeta Tal-Hsieb</i>	<i>Ruma Fis-sena Mqaddsa</i>	<i>Il-Mixja Għall-Indipendenza</i>	<i>Is-Sena Tal-Biza' – Malta 1942</i>	<i>Gorg Borg Olivier – Missier Malta Indipendenti</i>
			(Charles Caruana) Radju Malta		(Carmen Cacopardo Mariano) FM Bronja	(Gorg Peresso) FM Bronja	(Eric Montfort) Radio 101	(Charles Caruana) Radio 101	(Eric Montfort) Radio 101

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
TV		<i>Ix-Xoghol Wahdu Jurik</i>		<i>A Gentleman from Malta</i>	<i>Dinja Ohra II</i>	<i>Wara l-Intifada</i>	<i>Dinja Ohra II</i>	<i>Karba Mir-Russja</i>	<i>Dinja Ohra III</i>
		(Ray Mifsud Chircop)		(Malcolm Scerri Ferrante)	(Emy Farrugia & Moyra Felice)	(Joe Mifsud & Tony Parnis)	(Emi Farrugia)	(Roderick Agius)	(Emi Farrugia)
		TVM		Channel 12			Super 1 TV	Net TV	Super One TV
					TVM	Super 1 TV			
Magazine	RADIO	<i>Il-Golgota u D-Divers</i>					<i>Radio Zine</i>		
		(Albert Spiteri)					(Joseph Buttigieg)		
		Radju Ta` L-Universita`					Radju Malta		
TV		<i>Ghawdex Illum</i>				<i>Ghawdex Illum</i>	<i>Ghawdex Illum</i>		
		(Alvin Scicluna)				(Alvin Scicluna)	(Alvin Scicluna)		
		TVM				TVM	TVM		
Children's	RADIO	<i>Drama Ghar-Tfal</i>				<i>Wow!</i>	<i>Id-Dinja Taghna</i>	<i>Eco Kids</i>	<i>Ċama Ċama</i>
		(Joyce Guillaumier)				(Frida Cauchi & Manuel Cassar)	(Daphne Cassar)	(Celaine Buhagiar & Kathleen Mamo)	(Daniel Buhagiar & Kathleen Mamo)
		Radju Malta				Radju Malta 1	Radju Ta` L-Universita`	Campus FM	Radju Malta
TV		<i>Galileo</i>	<i>Owkej</i>			Bugsz@ Net	<i>Scooters</i>	<i>Kerser Quiz</i>	<i>Żneraldi</i>
									(Alvin Scicluna,
		(Michael Sciortino)	(Therese Ellul)			(Andrea Cassar)	(Joyce Grech)	(Geraldine Gouder)	Marion Zammit)
		Education 22	TVM			Net TV	Chanel 22	TVM	TVM
Light Entertainment	RADIO	Rock C.V.	Is-Snin Tar-Rock 'N Roll	Is-Snin Tar-Rock 'N Roll	Rock File 2	Rock File 2	Blaff	Elvis Presley Minn Abbey Road	Minn Liverpool Sa Abbey Road
								<i>Diversi Aspetti</i>	
		(Noel Mallia)	(Noel Mallia)	(Noel Mallia)	(Noel Mallia)	(Noel Mallia)	(Manwel Cassar)	(Eric Montfort)	(Noel Mallia)
TV	Radio 101	RTK	Radio 101	Radio 101	Radio 101	Radio 101	Radio Malta	Campus FM	Radio 101
						<i>Ċaqraq</i>	<i>Ċaqraq</i>	<i>Ġianni's Show</i>	<i>Ġianni U L-Bajja</i>
						(Engelbert Grech)	(Engelbert Grech)	(Jean Pierre Magro, Engelbert Grech,	(Jean Pierre Magro, Dennis Mahoney & Engelbert Grech)
								& Gianni Zammit)	Engelbert Grech)
						TVM	TVM	Net TV	TVM

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sport	RADIO						<i>Sportopolis</i>		<i>Sportstyle</i>
							(Celaine Buhagiar)		(Celaine Buhagiar & Daphne Cassar)
							Radju Ta' L-Universita		Campus FM
TV			<i>Super Sailing</i>	<i>Super Sailing Special</i>	<i>Super Sailing</i>	<i>Sport Focus</i>	<i>Total Sport-Edizzjoni</i>	<i>Varenne ... Ikompili</i>	<i>Lotteria D'Agnano ... Sport, Spettaklu u Tradizzjoni</i>
						(Vicky Licari & Fleur Balzan)			
			Super 1 TV	Super 1 TV	Super 1 TV	Channel 12	TVM	TVM	TVM
Discussion	RADIO		<i>Le!</i>	<i>Irrid Nghid Tieghi</i>		<i>Cikku U L-Poplu Miegħu</i>	<i>Nigħu għall-Punt</i>		
						(Rev Fr Joe Borg & Dr Georg Sapiano)			
			(David Bezzina)	(Tonio Bonello)		RTK			
TV			Radju Ta' L-Universita	RTK					
			<i>Xarabank</i>	<i>Minn Taht L-Ilsien</i>	<i>Appell Mifnuh</i>		<i>Xarabank</i>		
			(Georg Sapiano)	(Gloria Mizzi & Moira Felice)	(Georg Sapiano)		(P.J. Vassallo)		
Cultural / Educational	RADIO		TVM	TVM	Net TV		TVM		
			<i>Biex Nidhku? Isna tan-Nar</i>	<i>Piazza Taljana</i>	<i>Mim Għerfhom issaqeqna</i>				
			(Gorg Mallia u Ivan Said)						
TV			Radju Ta' L-Universita	FM Bronja	FM Bronja				
			<i>Meander</i>	<i>Meander</i>	<i>Caravaggio</i>				
			(Francis Lia)	(Mariella Pisani Bencini)	(Peppi Azzopardi, Marie Briguglio, P.J. Vassallo, Joe Scicluna)				
Cultural	RADIO		TVM	TVM	TVM				
						<i>Ribalta Operistica</i>	<i>Abjad u Iswed</i>	<i>Dan X'Amimal Hu</i>	<i>Id-Disa' Kori Ta' L-Angli</i>
						(Emi Scicluna)	(Gorg Peresso)	(Gorg Peresso)	
TV						FM Bronja	FM Bronja	FM Bronja	FM Bronja
						<i>Xhieda</i>	<i>Almanakk</i>	<i>Meander</i>	<i>Meander</i>
						(Marthese Brineat)	(Mario Parascandolo)	(Mariella Pisani Bencini)	(Mariella Pisani Bencini)
						TVM	Max Plus TV	TVM	TVM

Category	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Educational						<i>Wara l-H.W.</i>	<i>Mis-Saltna tad-Dlamijiet</i>	<i>L-Edukazzjoni ta' Uliedna</i>	<i>Banking in the EU</i>
						(Kenneth Mizzi & David Bezzina)	(Kenneth Mizzi)	(Lelio Spiteri & Horace Mercieca)	(John Consiglio)
						Radju Ta' L-Universita	Radju Ta' L-Universita	Radju Lehen Il-Qala	Campus FM
TV						<i>Teknosphere</i>	<i>X-Net</i>	<i>Teknosphere – Is-sengha tal-Inbid</i>	<i>Mim Gidd għal Gidd</i>
						(Charles Dalli & Mark Vassallo)	(Mark Vassallo)	(Mark Vassallo)	(Claire Agius Ordway)
						Super 1 TV	Super 1 TV	Super 1 TV	Net TV
Investigative Journalism				<i>Inkjesta</i> (Lara Mallia)					
				Radju Ta' L-Universita					
TV			<i>Loghob Bin-Nar</i>	<i>Pregudizzju jew Razziżmu</i>	<i>Il-Każ</i>	<i>Shaqi - Terrorizmu Internazzjonali f' Malta</i>	<i>Bondicini-Security</i>	<i>Team</i>	
			(Reno Bugeja)	(Ivan Camilleri)	(Tonio Bonello)	(Joe Mifsud & Tony Parnis)	(Lou Bondi & Simone Cini)	(Miriam Dalli)	
			TVM	TVM	TVM	Super 1 TV	TVM	Super One TV	
Discussion / Investigative Journalism									
TV								<i>Team</i>	
								(Miriam Dalli)	
								Super One TV	
Thaddim Xieraq Ta' L-Ilsien Malti								FM Bronja	
Award for Gender Awareness in the Broadcasting Media									
								Il-Mara Fil-Kotba	Campus FM
								Mqaddsa	
								(Joyce Guillaumier)	
								Radju Malta	
Special Award	Charles Arrigo		Charles Clews						
	For outstanding service to broadcasting		For outstanding service to broadcasting						

Adjudicating Boards

1995

Chairman:

Antoine J. Ellul.

Members:

Michael Fenech; Denise Vella; Michael Bonello; Dr. Paul Xuereb; Maurice Tanti Burlo'; Joe Borg Ghigo; Christine Vella Borda; Vanessa MacDonald; Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro.

ADJUDICATING PANELS

Drama:

Vanessa MacDonald; Michael Bonello; Joe Borg Ghigo.

Current Affairs:

Denise Vella; Christine Vella Borda; Maurice Tanti Burlo'.

Documentaries/Magazine Programmes (1):

Christine Vella Borda; Michael Bonello; Michael Fenech.

Documentaries/Magazine Programmes (2):

Vanessa Macdonald; Joe Borg Ghigo; Dr Paul Xuereb.

Children's Programmes and Sport:

Denise Vella; Michael Fenech; Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro.

Light Entertainment:

Denise Vella; Joe Borg Ghigo; Dr Paul Xuereb.

1996

Chairman:

Joe Sammut.

Members:

Joe Borg Ghigo; Antonia Borg Grech; Henry Brincat; Joseph M. Camilleri; John Coleiro; Dr Mary Darmanin; Angele Deguara; Pamela Hansen; Jon Rosser; Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro; Christine Vella Borda.

ADJUDICATING PANELS

Drama:

Joe Borg Ghigo; Dr Mary Darmanin; Jon Rosser.

Current Affairs:

Pamela Hansen; Joe Borg Ghigo; Henry Brincat.

Cultural/Educational:

Joseph M. Camilleri; Antonia Borg Grech; Joe Borg Ghigo.

Documentary:

Dr Mary Darmanin; Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro; Pamela Hansen; John Coleiro; Joe Borg Ghigo.

Discussion:

Angele Deguara; Henry Brincat; Pamela Hansen.

Magazine Programmes:

Jon Rosser; John Coleiro; Angele Deguara.

Children's Programmes:

Antonia Borg Grech; Christine Vella Borda; Joseph M. Camilleri.

Entertainment Programmes:

John Coleiro; Christine Vella Borda; Jon Rosser.

Sport:

Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro; Henry Brincat; Pamela Hansen.

1997

Chairman:

Pamela Hansen.

Members:

Lino Bugeja; Maurice Tanti Burlo'; Anthony C. Muscat; John Coleiro; Angele Deguara; Christopher Farrugia; Pauline Miceli; David Pace; Jon Rosser; Louiselle Vassallo; Anna Briffa; Nancy Calamatta.

ADJUDICATING PANELS

Drama:

Lino Bugeja (coordinator); Nancy Calamatta; Maurice Tanti Burlo'; Louiselle Vassallo.

Current Affairs:

Anthony C. Muscat; Pauline Miceli; Jon Rosser.

Cultural/Educational Programmes:

Lino Bugeja; John Coleiro; Angele Deguara.

Documentaries:

David Pace; Christopher Farrugia; Anna Briffa.

Discussion Programmes:

Anthony C. Muscat; Pauline Miceli; Jon Rosser.

Children's Programmes:

Pauline Miceli (coordinator); Nancy Calamatta; Maurice Tanti Burlo'; Louiselle Vassallo.

Magazine Programmes:

David Pace; Christopher Farrugia; Anna Briffa.

Light Entertainment:

Angele Deguara (coordinator); Nancy Calamatta; Maurice Tanti Burlo'; Louiselle Vassallo.

Sport:

Lino Bugeja; John Coleiro; Angele Deguara.

Investigative Journalism:

Anthony C. Muscat; Pauline Miceli; Jon Rosser.

1998

Chairman:

Lino Bugeja.

Members:

John Abela; Anna Briffa; Lino Bugeja; John Coleiro; Angele Deguara; Adrian Hillman; David Pace; Jon Rosser; Joe Sammut; Richard Vella Laurenti; Cecilia Xuereb.

ADJUDICATING PANELS

Drama:

Cecilia Xuereb (coordinator), David Pace; Jon Rosser.

Current Affairs:

Angele Deguara (coordinator); Joe Sammut; Richard Vella Laurenti.

Cultural/Educational Programmes:

John Coleiro (coordinator); Adrian Hillman; Cecilia Xuereb.

Documentaries:

David Pace (coordinator); Anna Briffa; Angele Deguara.

Discussion:

Richard Vella Laurenti (coordinator); John Coleiro; David Pace.

Children's Programmes:

Anna Briffa (coordinator); John Abela; Joe Sammut.

Magazine:

John Abela (coordinator); Anna Briffa; Adrian Hillman.

Light Entertainment:

Adrian Hillman (coordinator); Jon Rosser; Richard Vella Laurenti.

Sports:

Jon Rosser (coordinator); John Abela; Lino Bugeja.

Investigative Journalism:

Joe Sammut (coordinator); Lino Bugeja; Cecilia Xuereb.

1999

Chairman:

Lino Bugeja.

Members:

Daniela Attard Bezzina; John Coleiro; David Pace; Jon Rosser; Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro; Joe Vella; Dr Richard Vella Laurenti.

ADJUDICATING PANELS

Drama:

Jon Rosser (coordinator); Dr Richard Vella Laurenti; John Coleiro.

Discussion:

Dr Richard Vella Laurenti (coordinator); David Pace; Lino Bugeja.

Documentaries:

David Pace (coordinator); Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro; Joe Vella.

Magazine:

Daniela Attard Bezzina (coordinator); Jon Rosser; John Coleiro.

Culture & Education:

John Coleiro (coordinator); Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro; Jon Rosser.

Current Affairs:

Joe Vella (coordinator); Daniela Attard Bezzina; Jon Rosser; Lino Bugeja.

Children's Programmes:

Daniela Attard Bezzina (coordinator); Dr Richard Vella Laurenti; Joe Vella.

Sports:

Rev Fr Hilary Tagliaferro (coordinator); Joe Vella; Jon Rosser.

2000

Chairman:

Lino Bugeja.

Members:

Stephen Zerafa; Victor Fenech; Cecilia Xuereb; Victoria Galea; Dr Richard Vella Laurenti; Jon Rosser; John Coleiro; Romina Cachia; Daniella Vella.

2001

Chairman:

Lino Bugeja.

Members:

Katherine Cardona; John Coleiro; Alison Bezzina; Victoria Galea; Jon Rosser; Edgar Sammut; Cecilia Xuereb; Stephen Zerafa.

2002

Chairman:

Lino Bugeja.

Members:

Stephen Zerafa; John Coleiro; Victoria Galea; Jon Rosser; Edgar Sammut; Cecilia Xuereb; Alison Bezzina; Beatrice Gatt.

ADJUDICATING PANELS

Drama:

Jon Rosser (coordinator); Edgar Sammut; Victoria Galea.

Discussion/Current Affairs:

Victoria Galea (coordinator); John Coleiro; Edgar Sammut.

Documentary:

Cecilia Xuereb (coordinator); Alison Bezzina; Stephen Zerafa.

Children's Programmes:

Stephen Zerafa (coordinator); Beatrice Gatt; Jon Rosser.

Magazine:

Alison Bezzina (coordinator); Stephen Zerafa; Beatrice Gatt; Jon Rosser.

Sport:

Jon Rosser (coordinator); Victoria Galea; John Coleiro

Light Entertainment:

Edgar Sammut (coordinator); Jon Rosser; Beatrice Gatt.

Educational:

Beatrice Gatt (coordinator); Cecilia Xuereb; John Coleiro.

Investigative Journalism:

Alison Bezzina (coordinator); Stephen Zerafa; Victoria Galea.

Cultural:

John Coleiro (coordinator); Cecilia Xuereb; Beatrice Gatt.

2003

Chairman:

Lino Bugeja.

Members:

Alison Bezzina; Cecilia Xuereb; Jon Rosser; Victoria Galea; John Coleiro; Stephen Zerafa; Beatrice Gatt; Joanna Vella.

Appendix III

Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committees

1961/1962	1963	1963/1964	1964/1965	1965/1966	1966/1967
Chev S. Gatt (Chairman)	Chev S. Gatt (Chairman)	Chev J. P. Vassallo (Chairman)	Chev J. P. Vassallo (Chairman)	Chev J. P. Vassallo (Chairman)	Chev S. Gatt (Chairman)
Miss M. Mortimer	Miss M. Mortimer	S. Gatt	S. Gatt	S. Gatt	Rev Mgr. M. Azzopardi
Mgr. M. Azzopardi	Mgr. M. Azzopardi	Miss M. Mortimer	Miss M. Mortimer	Rev Mgr. M. Azzopardi	Rev Fr P. Cachia
G. Mangion	G. Mangion	Mgr. M. Azzopardi	Mgr. M. Azzopardi	Rev Fr P. Cachia	F. X. Mangion
G. Zarb Adami	G. Zarb Adami	G. Mangion	Rev Fr P. Cachia	F. X. Mangion	J. Cilia
Miss R. Chetcuti	Miss R. Chetcuti	G. Zarb Adami	F. X. Mangion	J. Cilia	Miss R. Chetcuti
F. X. Mangion	F. X. Mangion	Miss R. Chetcuti	J. Cilia	Miss R. Chetcuti	Miss M. Attard Gouder
P. Miceli	P. Miceli	F. X. Mangion	Miss R. Chetcuti	Miss M. Attard Gouder	Miss L. Bugeja
J. A. Cilai	J.A. Cilia	P. Miceli	Miss M. Attard Gouder	G. Zarb Adami	F. Vella Jones
J. M. Demanuele	J.M. Demanuele	J. A. Cilia	G. Zarb Adami	Miss L. Bugeja	P. Vella
Rev Fr P. Cachia	Rev Fr P. Cachia	Rev Fr P. Cachia	Frederick Vella Jones	F. Vella Jones	P. Bugeja
Miss M. Attard Gouder	Miss M. Attard	Miss M. Attard Gouder	Philip Vella	P. Vella	L. Mizzi
			Miss L. Bugeja	L. Mizzi	A. J. Ellul (Secretary)
				A. J. Ellul (Secretary)	

1967/1968	1968/1969	1969/1970	1970/1971	1971/1972	1972/1973
Chev S. Gatt (Chairman)	Chev S. Gatt (Chairman)	Chev S. Gatt (Chairman)	Miss M. Mortimer (Chairman)	A. Raimondo (Chairman)	A. Raimondo (Chairman)
Rev Mgr. M. Azzopardi	Bro Charles	Bro Charles	G. Mangion	A. Depares	Dr F. Chetcuti
Rev Fr P. Cachia	Mother McCallum	Mother McCallum	G. Zarb Adami	Dr F. Chetcuti	A. Depares
F. X. Mangion	Rev Mgr. M. Azzopardi	Rev Mgr. M. Azzopardi	T. Glass	L. Farrugia	L. Farrugia
J. Cilia	Rev Fr P. Cachia	Rev Fr P. Cachia	Sr Mc Callum	R. R. Bonello	R. R. Bonello
Miss R. Chetcuti	F. X. Mangion	F. X. Mangion	Bro Charles	V. Ciancio	V. Ciancio
Miss M. Attard Gouder	Miss M. Attard Gouder	Miss M. Attard Gouder	Fr S. Darmanin	Sr McCallum	Bro Charles
Miss L. Bugeja	Miss L. Bugeja	Miss L. Bugeja	F. Chetcuti	Bro Charles	Sr McCallum
F. Vella Jones	P. Vella	P. Vella	V. Ciancio	Bro Emmanuel	Miss A. Azzopardi
P. Vella	P. Bugeja	P. Bugeja	R. Bonello	Miss A. Azzopardi	F. Bonnici

1967/1968	1968/1969	1969/1970	1970/1971	1971/1972	1972/1973
P. Bugeja	J. Cilia	J. Cilia	Miss R. Borg	F. Bonnici	Bro Emmanuel
L. Mizzi	F. Vella Jones	F. Vella Jones	T. J. Zammit	L. Mizzi	Rev E. Borg Olivier
A. J. Ellul (Secretary)	L. Mizzi	L. Mizzi	L. Mizzi		(co-opted)
	A. J. Mizzi (Secretary)	A. J. Mizzi (Secretary)	A. J. Ellul (Secretary)		L. Mizzi

1973/1974	1974/1975	1975/1976	1976/1977	1977/1978
A. Raimondo (Chairman)	Dr F. Chetcuti (Chairman)	Dr F. Chetcuti (Chairman)	Dr F. Chetcuti (Chairman)	Dr F. Chetcuti (Chairman)
Dr F. Chetcuti	A. Depares	A. Depares	L. Farrugia	L. Farrugia
A. Depares	L. Farrugia	L. Farrugia	C. Cuschieri	C. Cuschieri
L. Farrugia	H. Borg Bonnici	H. Borg Bonnici	P. P. Grech	P. P. Grech
R. R. Bonello	M. Sultana	M. Sultana	Miss H. Borg Bonnici	Miss H. Borg Bonnici
V. Ciano	C. Farrugia	C. Farrugia	Rev B. Mangion	Rev B. Mangion
Miss A. Azzopardi	Rev B. Mangion	Rev B. Mangion	C. Farrugia	C. Farrugia
F. Bonnici	L. Mizzi	L. Mizzi	M. Sultana	M. Sultana
Bro Emanuel	C. J. Xerri (Secretary)	C. J. Xerri (Secretary)	L. Mizzi	L. Mizzi
Rev E. Borg Olivier				
(co-opted)				
L. Mizzi				

Appendix IV

Religious Broadcasting

The Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961 recognised that in certain specialised areas of broadcasting the Authority may require assistance. Section ten of the Ordinance provides for this assistance in the form of advisory committees which the Authority could appoint from time to time to advise the Authority and its broadcasting contractors.

18-1979: The objectives of religious broadcasting.

These are still valid as a rough working guide although they may need revision and re-interpretation from time to time. The objectives are:

- To seek to reflect the worship, thought and action of the religious traditions represented in Malta, recognizing that these traditions are Christian and mainly Catholic;
- To seek to present to viewers and listeners those beliefs, ideas and issues which are evidently related to a religious interpretation of life;
- To seek to meet the religious interests, concerns and needs of the community.

Religious broadcasting continued to seek to serve its audience and the Authority acknowledges with thanks the help and cooperation of its advisory committee.

1963	1963/1964	1964/1965	1965/1966
Rev Mgr. Prof A. Bonnici (Chairman)	Rev Mgr. Prof A. Bonnici (Chairman)	Rev Mgr. Prof A. Bonnici (Chairman)	Rev Mgr. Prof A. Bonnici (Chairman)
Rev Mgr. E. Vella	Rev Mgr. E. Vella	Rev Mgr. Prof J. Lupi	Rev Mgr. Prof J. Lupi
Rev Mgr. Prof J. Lupi	Rev Mgr. Prof J. Lupi	Rev Mgr. S. Laspina	Rev Mgr. S. Laspina
Rev Mgr. S. Laspina	Rev Mgr. S. Laspina	Rev Fr C. Xuereb	Rev Fr C. Xuereb
Rev Fr C. Xuereb	Rev Fr C. Xuereb	Rev Fr L. Cachia	Rev Fr L. Cachia
Rev Fr L. Cachia	Rev Fr L. Cachia	Rev Fr N. Cauchi	Rev Fr N. Cauchi
Rev Fr C. Farrugia	Rev Fr C. Farrugia	Rev Fr H. Born	Rev Fr H. Born
Rev Fr N. Cauchi	Rev Fr N. Cauchi	Rev Fr P. Serracino Inglott	Rev Fr P. Serracino Inglott
Rev Fr E. Borg Olivier	Rev Fr E. Borg Olivier	Magistrate Dr J. Formosa	Magistrate Dr J. Formosa
Rev Fr B. Tonna	Rev Fr B. Tonna	Dr P. Mallia	Dr P. Mallia
Rev Fr H. Born	Rev Fr H. Born	Mrs T. Vassallo Mallia	Mrs T. Vassallo Mallia
Rev Fr H. Chircop	Rev Fr H. Chircop		Rev Fr C. G. Vella
Magistrate Dr J. Formosa	Magistrate Dr J. Formosa		(Secretary)
Surg. Major R. L. Casolani	Surg. Major R. L. Casolani		
Dr Paul Mallia	Dr Paul Mallia		
Mrs T. Vassallo Mallia	Mrs T. Vassallo Mallia		
Rev Fr C. G. Vella	Rev Fr C. G. Vella		
(Secretary)	(Secretary)		

1972/1973	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/1978	1979	1980
Rev Fr J. Bernard (Chairman)					Rev J. Bernard (Chairman)	Rev D. Mintoff (Chairman)	BA1980: The Social Broadcasting Organiser and his two broadcasting officers continue to offer their experience in an enlarged Unit under the auspices of the Education Department
Rev Fr F. Bilocca					Rev N. Aquilina	Rev F. Bilocca	
Rev Fr Prof M. Eminyan					Rev F. Bilocca	E. Catania	
Rev Fr D. Mintoff					Rev D. Mintoff	Rev A. Seychell	
Rev Mgr. Can. C. Xuereb					J. Flask (Secretary)	Rev Prof E. Vella	
						Rev J. Borg (Secretary)	

Appendix V

Advisory Committees

1990	1991	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Technology in Broadcasting Advisory Committee		Mr Joe Bartolo	Mr Joe Bartolo			
		(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)			
		Mr Andrew Psaila	Mr Andrew Psaila			
		Mr Joe Spiteri	Mr Joe Spiteri			
Quality & Ethics in Broadcasting Advisory Committee		Dr Dominic Fenech	Dr Dominic Fenech	Dr Dominic Fenech	Prof Dominic Fenech	Prof Dominic Fenech
		(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)
		Ms Mary Anne Lauri	Ms Mary Anne Lauri	Dr Mary Anne Lauri	Dr Mary Anne Lauri	Dr Mary Anne Lauri
		Mr Noel Agius	Mr Noel Agius	Mr Noel Agius	Mr Noel Agius	Mr Noel Agius
		Mr David Pace	Mr David Pace	Mr David Pace	Mr David Pace	Mr David Pace
			Mr Tarcisio Zarb	Mr Tarcisio Zarb	Mr Tarcisio Zarb	Mr Tarcisio Zarb
Advertising & Other Economic Issues in the Broadcasting Media		Dr Paul Micallef	Dr Paul Micallef	Dr Paul Micallef		
		(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)		
		Mr Anthony J. Tabone	Mr Joseph Brockdorf	Mr Joseph Brockdorf		
		Mr Marcel Pizzuto	Mr Marcel Pizzuto	Mr Marcel Pizzuto		
News & Current Affairs Advisory Committee	Mr John A Mizzi	Mr Charles Mizzi	Mr Charles Mizzi	Mr Charles Mizzi	Mr Charles Mizzi	Mr Charles Mizzi
	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)
	Mr Tonio Portuguese	Mr Joe Vella	Mr Joe Vella	Mr Joe Vella	Mr Joe Vella	Mr Joe Vella
	Mrs Rose Sciberras	Mr Ray Bugeja	Mr Ray Bugeja	Mr Ray Bugeja	Mr Ray Bugeja	Mr Ray Bugeja
	Mr Richard Stagno Navarra	Ms Pamela Hansen	Ms Ariadne Massa	Ms Ariadne Massa	Ms Ariadne Massa	Ms Ariadne Massa
		Mr Tonio Farrugia	Mr Tonio Farrugia	Mr Tonio Farrugia	Mr Tonio Farrugia	Mr Tonio Farrugia

1990	1991	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Gender Issues in the Broadcasting Media		Ms Brenda Murphy	Ms Brenda Murphy	Ms Brenda Murphy	Dr Brenda Murphy	Dr Brenda Murphy
		(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)
		Dr Mario Felice	Dr Mario Felice	Dr Mario Felice	Dr Mario Felice	Dr Mario Felice
		Ms Lorraine Mercieca	Ms Lorraine Mercieca	Ms Lorraine Mercieca	Ms Lorraine Mercieca	Ms Lorraine Mercieca
		Ms Angela Callus	Ms Angela Callus	Ms Angela Callus	Ms Angela Callus	Ms Angela Callus
		Rev Dr Rene' Camilleri	Rev Dr Rene' Camilleri	Fr Rene' Camilleri	Fr Rene' Camilleri	Rev Fr Rene' Camilleri

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Broadcasting Authority Equality Committee	Ms Joanna Spiteri	Ms Joanna Spiteri	Ms Joanna Spiteri	Ms Joanna Spiteri
	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)	(Chairperson)
	Dr Kevin Aquilina	Dr Kevin Aquilina	Dr Kevin Aquilina	Dr Kevin Aquilina
	Mr Mario Axiak	Mr Mario Axiak	Mr Mario Axiak	Mr Mario Axiak
	Ms Natalie Debono	Ms Natalie Debono	Ms Natalie Debono	Ms Natalie Debono
Quality Children's Programmes Committee	Mrs Marian Muscat Azzopardi	Mrs Marian Muscat Azzopardi	Dr Kevin Aquilina & Mr Mario Axiak met with the Commissioner for Children-Ms Carmen Zammit and the said Minister's broadcasting advisor Rev Fr Joe Borg and it was decided that a joint committee be appointed between the Broadcasting Authority, the Commissioner for Children and the then Ministry for Tourism and Culture	
	Ms Daniela Debono	Ms Daniela Debono		
	Dr Kevin Aquilina	Dr Kevin Aquilina		
	Mr Mario Axiak	Mr Mario Axiak		
BA/MCA Task Force on Community Radio Stations		Dr Kevin Aquilina	Dr Kevin Aquilina	
		Mr Adrian Galea	Mr Adrian Galea	
		Mr Brian Sghendo	Mr Brian Sghendo	
		Dr Paul Micallef Grimaud	Dr Paul Micallef Grimaud	
			Mr Joe Spiteri	

2005	2006	2007	2008
BA Advisory Committee on Medicinal Products & Medicinal Treatment Advertising	Mr Edgar Cassar (Secretary)	Mr Edgar Cassar (Secretary)	
	<i>Committee consists of a Representative of :</i>	<i>Representatives:</i>	
	the Broadcasting Authority	Dr Kevin Aquilina	
	Director General (Health)	Dr Charmaine Gauci	
	Medical Council	Dr Dennis Soler	
	Pharmacy Council	Mr Jurgen Azzopardi	
	Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine	Ms Stephanie Vella	
	the Medicines Authority	Ms Andrea Mallia Milanes	
	the Consumer Affairs Council	Ms Carmen Delia	
Broadcasting Studies Series Committee			Dr Kevin Aquilina (Editor)
			Mr Mario Axiak (Deputy Editor)
Maltese Language Committee			Dr Ray Fabri (Chairman)
			Dr Charles Briffa
			Mr Trevor Zahra
			Mr Charles Flores
			Mr Jean Pierre Caligari (Secretary)



YEARS OF SERVICE

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY MALTA

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