

MEDIA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS REGULATION IN UKRAINE

Digest #37 – July 2026

DSLU monthly digest on media and digital rights regulation in Ukraine provides an overview of the proposed and adopted legislation in the spheres of freedom of expression, media regulation, privacy and data protection, Internet regulation in general, and the activities of the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine (hereinafter – NBC) in the area of Media Law implementation.

EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

On 16 July, the **Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine** [appointed the new government](#). **Oksana Ferchuk** [was appointed](#) Minister at the Ministry for Digital Transformation of Ukraine. Previously, Ferchuk served as Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine for digital development and transformation. Her priorities at the post remain unknown at present, though this leadership change might impact the Ministry's stance on platform and AI regulation, as well as the broader digital rights framework. **This is the first time since 2019 when the Ministry is not being governed by Mykhailo Fedorov or his deputies**, the longest-standing member of the Cabinet of Ministers during Volodymyr Zelenskyi's presidency before [his dismissal that triggered protests in Ukraine](#).

On the same day, as a result of the previous government's dismissal without clearly explained reasons, the Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy, **Mykyta Poturaiev**, [submitted a resignation application from his MP duties](#). While it has not yet been voted on, his resignation might result in a leadership change within the committee responsible for media regulation and EMFA transposition.

On 24 July, the **President of Ukraine** signed a new [Order on the Martial Law Extension](#). The Order **extends the martial law period until 31 October 2026**. It will also extend the applicability of specific additional restrictions, such as the aggression-related exceptions under the Law on Media.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA REGULATION

On 16 July, **Draft Law #14202 on accessibility of media services for people with disabilities**, analyzed in [the November 2025 digest](#), **was withdrawn from consideration by the Parliament**. This coincides with the recent resignation of Yulia Svyrydenko's government, since, under the procedural rules in place, the Cabinet's dismissal leads to the withdrawal of all draft laws submitted by the Cabinet to the Verkhovna Rada.

There was no progress on drafts described in the [previous digests](#) and voted upon in the first reading, including Draft Law [#7033-d](#) on the prevention of disclosure of certain information in the texts of court decisions, Draft Law [#12111](#) on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Media Activities, and Draft Law [#12253](#), which improves the legal provisions of the [Law on Advertising](#). Draft Laws [#15186](#) on criminalizing Ukrainophobia, [#15192](#) on criminalizing public denial of the Holodomor in Ukraine, and [#15256](#) on specifics of the publication of laws, analyzed in the [previous digests](#), are still under the pre-voting consideration.

Draft Law [#5870-d](#) on conditional access to media services and Draft Law [#12320](#) on safeguarding the barristers' activities are still awaiting the President's signature.

PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

On 3 July, **Draft Law #15379** was registered in the Parliament. The law amends Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, **criminalizing fraud committed through illegal operations using information and communication systems or AI systems**. Additionally, the draft defines AI-systems as *"technological systems, which, based on received data, are able to generate output results, such as content, predictions, recommendations or decisions, which have signs of human intellectual activity and are used to mislead the victim"*. This draft is one of the first legislative attempts to address manipulative and rapidly evolving AI tools. The **Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement Activities processes the draft**.

On 14 July, **Draft Law #15294**, analyzed in detail in the [previous digest](#), **was adopted by the Parliament in the first reading**. The law's main aim

is to decriminalize the creation and distribution of pornography by adults on their own will. MPs should have submitted their relevant amendments to the draft law by 30 July, and despite the general support for the initiative, it faced [certain criticism from the women's rights organizations](#).

No progress was made on other [previously analyzed documents](#), such as the draft laws on [personal data protection](#), [third parties' access to public electronic registers](#), and Draft Law [#15289](#) prohibiting hate speech against politicians. Draft Law [#15150](#) on the new draft of the [Civil Code of Ukraine](#), as well as Draft Law [#13181](#) on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, are still being prepared for the second reading.

INTERNET REGULATION

On 30 June, **Draft Law [#13505](#)** on the Prohibition of Use and Distribution of Hostile Software Products and Hostile Information Technology was neither adopted in the first reading nor referred back for the repeated first reading, **resulting in its withdrawal from consideration by the Parliament**. On 16 July, Draft Law [#14197](#), strengthening enforcement powers in the sphere of electronic communications, and Draft Law [#14278](#) on digital accessibility **were withdrawn from consideration by the Parliament due to the Cabinet's dismissal**.

No legislative steps were taken regarding the previously submitted initiatives, namely Draft Law [#14278-1](#) on digital accessibility and Draft Law [#12349](#) on the Cyber Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. [Draft Law \[#11115\]\(#\)](#) on Regulation of Information-Sharing Platforms That Disseminate Mass Information, which was recommended to be adopted in the first reading, is yet to be voted on.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING OF UKRAINE

On 10 July, the NBC published the [Draft criteria for classifying persons as subjects in the online media sphere](#) for commenting to the general public, following more than 2 years of inaction by the co-regulatory body in drafting the respective criteria. The criteria for consideration include, among others, compliance of activities with the goals and purpose of the

media, public and economic nature of media activities, and the existence of editorial control. **Suggestions for the document can be submitted until 10 August.**

On 13 July, the Selection Commission [announced](#) **the selection process of candidates for the positions of the National Council's four members under the President's quota.** The candidates are to be submitted by 3 August. The Commission [consists](#) of Vladyslav Bilotskyi (Deputy Director at the Ukrainian IP Office), Hanna Krasnostup (Director of the Strategic Communications Department at the Ministry of Culture), Inna Lebedenko (Head of the Information Policy Service at the Office of the President), Dmytro Khorkin (Board Member at Suspilne), and Ruslan Shevchuk (Legal Director at Starlight Media LLC).

On 23 July, **the NBC** [approved](#) **an expert panel**, which will prepare expert opinions on compliance with [the Broadcasting Rules for Memorial Days for linear audiovisual media](#). The panel consists of five experts, namely, Oksana Davydekno, Nataliia Zagumenna, Kateryna Myasnikova, Oksana Pavlenko, and Tetiana Smyrnova. **This is the first expert panel to be organized among the co-regulatory bodies.**

On the same day, the NBC [expanded](#) **the [List of Persons Threatening National Security](#)** to include Akym Gasanov, a Russian performer, and Valentyna Rubtsova, a Russian actress, who publicly and systematically spread anti-Ukrainian narratives.

The NBC [has also imposed](#) a prescription on the unregistered online media service "Information portal of Chernihiv" **for distributing content that may be harmful to minors.** The published material depicted a close-up of dead cows, intending to emphasize the inhumane treatment of animals at the farms, without a warning label about the potential harm of the content to the physical, mental, or moral development of children.

Digital Security Lab Ukraine is a non-governmental organization aiming to create a human-rights-centered digital environment in Ukraine. We work towards achieving this goal by providing digital security support to high-risk Ukrainian human rights and media organizations, and contributing to policy development in the field of human rights on the Internet through conducting legal monitoring, research, analysis, advocacy, and awareness-raising campaigns.

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