

MEDIA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS REGULATION IN UKRAINE

Digest #38 – August 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 17 August, **the newly formed Cabinet of Ministers approved its [Program of Activity for 2026-2027](#)**. The document outlines the main governmental goals and specific objectives aimed at Ukraine's Euro-integration track and its defense priorities. At the same time, the Program does not address security guarantees for the media and journalists during wartime, as well as the protection of the information field from digital threats. It briefly mentions the development of AI as a goal; however, it omits the necessary precautions and regulatory measures. The Program is currently awaiting further review by the Parliament; **its approval can grant the Cabinet of Ministers one-year immunity under the Constitution of Ukraine.**

On 20 August, the President of Ukraine issued his [Order №744/2026](#), which **imposed personal and economic sanctions, in particular, on the producers and distributors of the popular Russian cartoon series "Masha and the Bear"** for spreading anti-Ukrainian narratives and posing a threat to national security. Such measures include blocking this cartoon's accounts on popular online platforms in Ukraine, leading to the removal of the series from websites and streaming services in the country.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA REGULATION

On 27 August, **Draft Law #15563** was registered in the Parliament. The draft law amends the [Criminal Procedure Code](#) and the [Law of Ukraine "On Access to Court Decisions"](#) by establishing **mandatory openness of the court proceedings regarding the approval of plea agreements**. Strengthening transparency is the main goal: currently, only court decisions (sometimes with data removed or depersonalized) remain publicly accessible, whereas the text of the agreement itself is not. **The Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement Activities processes the draft.**

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

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](#), Draft Law [#13181](#) on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, and Draft Law [#15294](#) on decriminalization of the voluntary creation and distribution of pornography by adults are still being prepared for the second reading. Draft Law [#15379](#), which criminalizes fraud committed through AI systems and was analyzed in the [previous digest](#), did not undergo any legislative developments.

INTERNET REGULATION

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 6 August, the NBC [expanded the List of Persons Threatening National Security](#) to include Yurii Muzychenko, a Russian musician, actor, and videoblogger, who publicly and systematically supported the aggressor state in the information-propagandistic campaigns.

On 20 August, the NBC [expanded its List of the Aggressor State On-Demand Audiovisual Media Services and Services of Audiovisual Service Providers](#) by ordering the blocking of 6 websites associated with 2 newly prohibited services (MUVEE and KinoVibe).

On the same day, the media regulator also [imposed 13 prescriptions on the audiovisual media service “MEGOGO Sport”](#) for repeated violations of advertising laws (namely, hosting ads for nicotine pads and for a gambling provider’s trademark).

On 31 August, the NBC [announced the application process for participation in the conference to elect members of Suspilne’s Supervisory Board in the sphere of rights protection](#). The applications are to be submitted by 15 September.

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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