



## TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

# CHANGES TO THE RADIO LAW, THE TELEVISION LAW AND APPROVAL OF NEW ARTICLES

*Law no. 38/2014 introduces the first amendment to the Radio Law (Law no. 54/2010 of 24 December) and extends the period of public radio service concession granted to “Rádio e Televisão de Portugal, S.A.”, from 15 to 16 years.*

Laws numbered 38/2014, 39/2014 and 40/2014 were published on 9 July.

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The second new piece of legislation recently published – Law no. 39/2014 – approves the second amendment to Law no. 8/2007 of 14 February. This amendment restructures the public radio and television service concessionaire.

One of the main changes introduced by this Law is the creation of a new body, the independent General Board, which will take on the roles of internal supervision and control of compliance with the obligations of the public radio and television service. It will also be responsible for naming the board of directors and preparing its strategic plan as well as its general guidelines.

This Law also introduces a Supervisory Board that will substitute the single auditor model used up to this point by “Rádio e Televisão de Portugal, S.A.” The two changes made to this company’s corporate bodies gave rise to the need to republish the respective article of association and this is done by the above mentioned Law no. 39/2014.

Finally, Law no. 40/2014 introduces the second amendment to the On Demand Television and Audio Visual Services Law (Law no. 27/2007 of 20 July) by modifying the content of the programmes that make up the public television service concession.

In this respect, it is important to point out that once this law comes into force, the public television service concession must include programmes that value education, health, science, research, the arts, innovation, entrepreneurship, interculturality, the promotion of gender equality, economic topics, social action, news of humanitarian causes, non-professional and school sports, religious faiths, independent production of creative works, Portuguese cinema, the environment, consumer defence and audio visual experimentation.

Until the said Law was approved, this content was only part of the programming attributed to Portugal’s second generalist television. Law no. 40/2014 places an obligation on this second service, currently attributed to RTP2, to ensure programming with a strong cultural and educational component that is open to civil society. All three of these new laws come into force in 10 July and take effect as from 1 July 2014.

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