



European Broadcasting Union

Union Européenne de Radio-Télévision

The Director General

La Directrice générale

Mr Traian BASESCU
President of Romania
Romania

By e-mail: cancelariapresedintelui@presidency.ro

Geneva, 01 June 2012

Dear Mr President,

It was with extreme concern that I learned of the blocking, on 21 May, of the bank accounts of TV Romania - a valued Member of the European Broadcasting Union, which it is my honour to head.

As a result, your country's public service broadcaster is unable to make any operational payments and is prevented from fully carrying out its role of serving the citizens of Romania.

As you are no doubt aware, public funding is granted to TVR "for the fulfilment of the public service remit as conferred, defined and organized by each Member State" of the European Union (Protocol on the system of broadcasting in the Member States in the Treaty of Amsterdam).

While in no position to judge why this drastic step was taken, on behalf of the EBU I urge you most earnestly - in the interests of preventing any permanent damage to TVR and its services - to lift this obstruction and allow this important broadcaster to resume its normal activities.

I cannot let this opportunity pass to inform you that TVR has debts to the EBU exceeding CHF 15 million. And that, if obligations to the EBU are not settled, we may regretfully be forced to withhold the broadcast of important international sporting events, including the London Olympic Games and the European Football Championships this summer, for which the EBU negotiated rights on behalf of TVR. This would naturally be an enormous blow to the Romanian public, and I am sure this is an eventuality you would wish to avoid.

Your sincerely,

Ingrid Deltenre
Director General

Cc: Mr Victor Ponta, Prime Minister; Mr Sergiu-Florin Nicolaescu, Romanian Senate;
Ms Raluca Turcan, Committee for Culture, Arts and Mass Communication