

# Structure of the National Council for Journalism Ethics

Bulgaria

<b>UPB</b>	<b>ABBRO</b>	<b>UBJ</b>	<b>MDC</b>	<b>BMC</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**FOUNDATION**

**PRINT  
MEDIA**

**OFFICE**

**BROADCAST  
MEDIA**

**3 UPB  
1 BARM  
4 JOURN  
4 INDEPEND**

**3 ABBRO  
1 BNT/R/TA  
4 JOURN  
4 INDEPEND**

**General Meetings**

# Foundation for Journalism Ethics

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UPB	ABBRO	UBJ	MDC	BMC
2	2	1	1	1

The Foundation is established by 7 representatives in total of UPB, ABBRO, UBJ, MDC and BMC.

The Founders form together the Board of the Foundation. The Board takes decision with a majority of 2/3 (consensus is obligatory when voting of the Annual Report and any financial matters) and is responsible for:

- Annual budget and Annual report;
- Hiring executive staff for the office;
- Amendments of its Statutes as well as of the Code of Ethics following suggestions of the chairpersons of the committees and in coordination with the respective organizations of the founders.

# Office

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Manages the Foundation on daily basis, including:

- Preparation of the budget and annual reports;
- Preparation and technical support for the meetings of the committees;
- Ongoing communication regarding complaints on proceedings/statutes;
- Transparency of the decision and all other aspects of the activities;
- Legal representation of third parties
- The administration of the Foundation consists of: Director, Legal Adviser, Office manager and two coordinators – one for print and the other – for broadcast media;
- The Director cannot play the role of Chairperson or spokesperson of the Foundation.

# Ethics Commission on Print Media

# Ethics Commission on Broadcast Media

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The Ethics Commissions are to:

- Accept complaints;
- Be the mediator between the plaintiff and the media;
- Take decisions on complaints based on rules and regulations;
- Single out media for breaching the Code of Ethics;
- Analyse and comment the trends in media and provide guidance concerning the norms;
- Suggest amendments in the Code of Ethics to the Board.

Each of the Commissions elect a chairperson who is also serving as spokesperson with a 2/3 majority and at least 1 vote from each group.

Each of the Commissions takes decisions with a simple majority, minimum 6 votes.

# Members of the Ethics Commissions

## 4 employers-4 journalists-4 independent

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*Employers in print media* – 3 representatives elected at GA of UPB,  
1 representative nominated by BARM

*Employers in broadcast media* – 3 representatives nominated by  
ABBRO, 1 representative jointly nominated by BTV, BNR, BTA

*Independent 2+2* – public figures of high respect, not necessarily  
related to media

# Members of Ethics Commissions

4 employers-4 journalists-4 independent

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*2 joint nominations of UPB/ABBRO and confirmed by the journalists*

*2 nominations of the journalists confirmed by UPB/ABBRO*

Representatives of the employers and of the journalists from print media can be elected as independent members in the Commission on broadcast media and vice versa.

# Representatives of the journalists

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They are elected at the National Journalists Assembly.

For the Commission on print media the delegates for the General Assembly are elected on a quota basis 1 representative of every 20 staff journalists in a print media which also fulfills the following conditions entirely:

- 1) is a member or associate member of UPB;
- 2) has signed the Code of Ethics.

Each print media has at least 1 representatives in the General Assembly of the journalists regardless of the number of staff journalists.

# Representatives of the journalists

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For the Commission on broadcast media the delegates for the General Assembly are elected on a quota basis of 1 representative for each 10 staff journalists from broadcast media that also fulfill the following criteria entirely:

- 1) the media is a member or associated member of ABBRO;
- 2) the media has signed the Code of Ethics.

Every broadcast media has at least 1 representative at the General Assembly regardless of the number of the staff journalists. Journalists from BNTv and BNR have quotas equal to the quota of the biggest private broadcast media.

UBJ has a separate quota in both General Assemblies equal to the quota of the biggest print and biggest broadcast media respectively.

# Joint Sessions of the Two Committees

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Such could be called on the request of each of the Commissions in case:

- There is a case between print and broadcast media;
- A position on certain developments in the media needs to be prepared;
- Amendments in the Code of Ethics need to be discussed.

# What Happened So Far?

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- Office furnished
- Executive Director appointed
- Proceedings for the Commissions elaborated
- 34 complaints received
- 7 admitted to rulings
- Web-site developed
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Alliance of Independent Press Councils in Europe held in Sofia
- [www.mediaethics-bg.org](http://www.mediaethics-bg.org)