



Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2009-676

Route reference: 2009-576

Ottawa, 29 October 2009

Addition of Russia Today to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis

*The Commission **approves** a request to add Russia Today to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis and amends the lists of eligible satellite services accordingly. The revised lists are available on the Commission's website at www.crtc.gc.ca under "Broadcasting Sector."*

Introduction

1. The Commission received a request dated 10 July 2009 from Ethnic Channels Group Limited (ECGL) for the addition of Russia Today, a non-Canadian, English-language satellite news service, to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis (the digital lists).
2. ECGL described the service as a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week English-language international news and information service targeted to an international audience.
3. In Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2009-576, the Commission called for comments on the proposed addition of Russia Today to the digital lists. The Commission received comments in support of the proposal. ECGL filed a reply dated 6 October 2009. There were no comments in opposition.

Commission's analysis and determination

4. The Commission's general approach to the addition of English- and French-language non-Canadian services was set out in Public Notice 2000-173. This approach generally precludes the addition of new non-Canadian satellite services if the Commission determines them to be competitive with Canadian specialty or pay television services.
5. In Broadcasting Public Notice 2008-100, the Commission reaffirmed its overall approach to authorizing non-Canadian English- or French-language services. However, in regard to non-Canadian news services, the Commission determined that a more open-entry approach would be consistent with the importance it places on a diversity of editorial points of view. Accordingly, the Commission stated that, "absent clear evidence, as determined by the Commission, that a non-Canadian news service would violate Canadian regulations, such as those regarding abusive comment, the Commission will be predisposed to authorize non-Canadian news services for distribution in Canada."

6. In accordance with the approach adopted in Broadcasting Public Notice 2008-100 and given the comments received in response to the notice of consultation, the Commission **approves** the request to add Russia Today to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis and amends the lists of eligible satellite services accordingly. The revised lists are available on the Commission's website at www.crtc.gc.ca under "Broadcasting Sector" and are available in hard copy upon request.

Secretary General

Related documents

- *Call for comments on the proposed addition of Russia Today to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis*, Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-576, 14 September 2009
- *Regulatory frameworks for broadcasting distribution undertakings and discretionary programming services – Regulatory Policy – Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2008-100*, 30 October 2008
- *Call for proposals to amend the lists of eligible satellite services through the inclusion of additional non-Canadian services eligible for distribution on a digital basis only*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-173, 14 December 2000

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