**official journal “Dz.U.” No. 146, item 878**

**REGULATION**

**OF THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COUNCIL**

of 6 July 2011

**concerning detailed principles and procedure of organising debates
by Telewizja Polska Spółka Akcyjna**

(official journal “Dz.U.” of 15 July 2011)

Pursuant to Article 120 § 2 of the Act of 5 January 2011 - the Elections Code (official journal “Dz.U.” No. 21, item 112, as further amended[[1]](#endnote-1)1), it is hereby ordered as follows:

**§ 1.** This regulation sets down:

1. the national programme service, in which the debates shall be organized;
2. duration of the debates;
3. manner of preparation and broadcast of the debates;
4. manner of publicizing the information about the time and date of debate broadcast.

**§ 2.** Telewizja Polska Spółka Akcyjna, hereinafter referred to as the "Telewizja Polska", has the duty to organize debates in the “Program I” programme service between:

1) representatives of election commissions in elections to the Lower House of the Parliament (theSejm) of the Republic of Poland, which registered their lists of candidates in all the electoral districts;

2) representatives of election commissions in elections to the European Parliament in the Republic of Poland, which registered their lists of candidates in all the electoral districts;

3) candidates in elections for the President of the Republic of Poland referred to in Articles 289 and 292 of the Act of 5 January 2011 - the Elections Code.

**§ 3.** The debate referred to in § 2 shall:

1) last for at least 45 minutes and be clearly distinguishable from amongst other items of the programme service;

2) start at an hour from 1800 and 2215;

3) be broadcast during a period of the last two weeks preceding the elections date referred to in § 2.

**§ 4.** 1. During the period referred to in § 3.3, Telewizja Polska has the duty to organize at least one debate with representatives or candidates referred to in § 2.

2. In the event of a large number of representatives or candidates referred to in § 2, Telewizja Polska shall organize an appropriate number of debates according to the same formula.

**§ 5.** Telewizja Polska shall ensure equal terms and conditions of participation in the debate to each and every representative or candidate referred to in § 2 by way of:

1) offering the opportunity to participate in the same number of debates;

2) allotting equal length of time to speakers during a debate;

3) ensuring the same debate broadcast starting hour with a ±15 minute difference margin;

4) informing representatives or candidates about the date and hour and subjects of the debate at least 48 hours before the broadcast of the debate;

5) organizing the debate without participation of the public in the studio.

**§ 6.** 1. Representatives or candidates referred to in § 2 agree between themselves the selection of participants in the individual debates.

2. If the representatives or candidates referred to in § 2 fail to agree between themselves the selection of participants in the individual debates at least 96 hours before the broadcast of the first debate, Telewizja Polska shall determine this selection by way of drawing lots in the presence of election plenipotentiaries of election commissions.

**§ 7.** No-show of a representative or candidate referred to in § 2 at a specified time shall be tantamount to resignation from participation in the debate.

**§ 8.** Telewizja Polska shall broadcast the debates live.

**§ 9.** 1. Telewizja Polska shall inform the public about the date and hour of debate broadcast in the programme announcements.

2. Telewizja Polska shall forthwith notify the press about the days and hours of debate broadcasts.

3. Programme announcements referred to in subparagraph 1 shall not be included in the broadcaster’s announcements referred to in Article 16 paragraph 5 of the Broadcasting Act of 29 December 1992 (official journal “Dz.U.” of 2011, No. 43, item 226, No. 85, item 459 and No. 112, item 654).

**§ 10.** The Regulation shall come into force on 1 August 2011.

1. 1) Amendments to the Act were promulgated in the official journal “Dz. U.” of 2011 No. 26, item 134, No. 94, item 550, No. 102, item 588 and No. 134, item 777. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)