

Subject: Haugaland (complaint) - Case No: 86904.

We do not understand why this case has been treated as completely isolated to the amount of economic support. This issue is about so much more.

Firstly we are asking how it is possible to get financial aid to start a competing business. In this case a digital distribution network for radio was built several years before this economic support was granted as you describe. The radiostations themselves took the cost for investments. So why has there been given large sums of money to a soccerclub for building a competing digital network? We do not see how that could be legal.

Secondly it is proven and admitted without the shadow of a doubt that the soccerclub received the funds, but took no cost for the establishment of a digital radionetwork. Investments were done by Haugaland Kraft. Nobody is denying this fact and Medietilsynet (Norwegian government) has known about this for many years. This can't possibly be legal and is obviously a violation with the purpose of the support.

We also ask if it is legal to grant financial support to an entity that obviously does not need it, Haugaland Kraft. The reason why support for digitization was established, was the fact that most small radiostations lack the funds to do these investments. It is also stated in official publications that the financial support must be what triggers the investment. Haugaland kraft makes about 3.000.000.000 kroner a year with about 1.000.000.000 in profits. This support clearly makes no difference.

As the local radiostations have financed their own digital network, nobody or only one station is using this Haugaland kraft- network. The other 17 are still using the original network owned by the stations themselves. This means also that Haugaland kraft AS as a municipal company are maintaining their network with large losses each year. That could be looked at as an illegal municipal support.

This case is a complete scandal where close ties between the footballclub and representatives of the powercompany has been used to rob small radiostations they're right to government support at a critical time. In so doing they have attached local democracy and seriously shaken the trust for government institutions and the EU. The way we see it, this is a very serious matter!

Regards,
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