

# MEASURES CONCERNING ACCESS OF VISUALLY AND HEARING-IMPAIRED PEOPLE TO TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## SPAIN

### 1. Subtitling for deaf and hearing-impaired viewers

#### 1.1. Are there legal provisions on the use of subtitling?

There is no legal provision setting out an obligation for broadcasters intended to the use of subtitling in tv programmes.

#### 1.2. Are there obligations on Public Service Broadcasters concerning subtitling? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

As regards Public Broadcasters, although no legal requirements imposing specific mandatory percentages for the transmission of subtitled programming, in December 2001 the Law 4/1980, 10 January (on the Statute of Radio and Television) was amended so as to oblige RTVE (the national public broadcaster) to favour and encourage the access of every sort of audience and social groups, including those minorities with disabilities.

This being said, over the year 2003, the afore-mentioned public operator broadcast a number of hours using subtitling, which is spelt out in the coming explanatory picture according to the different types of programmes concerned:

PICTURE 1

<b>PROGRAMME'S GENRE</b>	<b>DURATION</b>
Contests	64:11:00
Cartoons	293:33:02
Popularization	91:26:42
Documentaries	140:06:44
Comedy	22:35:00
Comedy for children	09:20:00
News	897:50:00
Institutional	24:15:00
Feature films	926:27:59
Series	677:06:06
Theatre	1:35:00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.148:26:33</b>

In addition, various public broadcasters with regional scope have transmitted programmes using subtitling, namely:

- Telemadrid: 1369 hours (in a year).
- Canal 9: 1210 hours/year.

- TV-Cataluña: 4700 hours/year.
- RTV Andalucía: 1324 hours/year.

**1.3. Are there obligations on commercial broadcasters concerning subtitling? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)**

There is no any provision in our domestic legal framework envisaging an obligation for commercial broadcasters in the use of subtitling.

**1.4. Are there other arrangements concerning the use of subtitling? If so, what are these?**

Despite the lack of any legislation concerning subtitling, a number of working groups and forums are currently looking into this particular issue -especially in the field of digital television-.

**1.5. Do broadcasters, who are not under any obligation to provide subtitling, provide subtitling on a voluntary basis?**

As it was pointed out in the question concerning public broadcasters, tv operators are providing in a voluntary basis subtitling services, especially within those programmes devoted to feature films, series and news. At this stage, the rough average among generalist channels in the year 2003 is 2.500 hours using subtitling.

**1.5. Are speech recognition systems used or being developed?**

This Department is learnt of the significant increasing in the number of subtitled programming due to the use stenotype's keyboards, software for speech recognition and the technological enhancement of subtitling equipments.

**1.6. Are provisions on subtitling envisaged in particular in the context of the digital switchover?**

Facilities opened and offered by digital transmission technique, as well as its impending implementation, leads/make it advisable to focus the surveys and studies currently under way to this tv sector (digital tv). At this point, within a Forum for Digital Television, a specific working group is tackling with tv and people with disabilities issue.

**2. Audio Description**

**(What is already stated above may, broadly speaking, remain valid to answer the queries raised next)**

2.1. Are there legal provisions on the use of audio description?

2.2. Are there obligations on Public Service Broadcasters concerning audio description? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

2.3. Are there obligations on commercial broadcasters concerning audio description? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

2.4. Are there other arrangements concerning the use of audio description? If so, what are these?

2.5. Do broadcasters, who are not under any obligation to provide audio description, provide audio description on a voluntary basis?

2.6. Are provisions on audio description envisaged in particular in the context of the digital switchover?

### **3. Sign Language**

**(What is already stated above may, broadly speaking, remain valid to answer the queries raised next)**

3.1. Are there legal provisions on translation into sign language?

3.2. Are there obligations on Public Service Broadcasters concerning translation into sign language? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

3.3. Are there obligations on commercial broadcasters concerning translation into sign language? If so, what are these? (types of programmes, percentage of programming, etc.)

3.4. Are there other arrangements concerning translation into sign language? If so, what are these?

3.5. Do broadcasters, who are not under any obligation to provide sign language, provide translation into sign language on a voluntary basis?

3.6. Are provisions on sign language envisaged in particular in the context of the digital switchover?