

What's happening in European Commercial and VOD Broadcasting

12-16 January 2026

Policy & business developments go hand in hand. This quick snapshot is designed to help EU media stakeholders to keep up with the innovative world of commercial broadcasting

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[Canal HISTORIA unveils the best-kept secrets of the ancient world with "Decoding History"](#)

On 13 January, Canal HISTORIA, produced by AMC Networks, premiered 'Decoding History', a series in which the archaeologist combines cutting-edge technology to reveal hidden chapters of the ancient world. Across six episodes, the series explores stories that transform our understanding of the past. The journey includes the rise of history's first empire, the enigmatic Silver Manuscript of Gerasa, the Amber Road, the astonishing engineering of Newgrange, Europe's forgotten silver mines, and the submerged Roman city of Baiae.



[TG5: Over three decades of innovation, credibility, and reliable news](#)

Mediaset's flagship news programme celebrates its 34th anniversary since its launch on 13 January 1992. As the first commercial TV newscast to challenge public broadcasters with an innovative editorial model, TG5 has earned credibility and authority over the years, becoming a key reference in Italian news. With a modern and agile style, it covers major national and international events, maintaining a clear editorial line that distinguishes facts from opinions, offering rigorous yet accessible information.



RTL+ breaks the 7 million paying subscriber mark

RTL+ celebrates a strong start to 2026: RTL Deutschland's streaming service surpassed the milestone of 7 million paying subscribers around the turn of the year, reinforcing its market position through strong local content and sustained audience growth.



Sky commissions original drama series The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, based on Stieg Larsson's globally bestselling Millennium novels

Sky announced The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, an eight-part Sky Original series from Left Bank Pictures (The Crown, Dept Q), based on the globally bestselling novels written by Stieg Larsson. This bold and contemporary reimagining brings The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo into the present, grounded in the characters and investigative DNA of Stieg Larsson's Millennium novels, with themes that carry heightened relevance today.



TF1 Group will broadcast 9 matches of the 2026 Six Nations Tournament

TF1 Group is pleased to announce the acquisition from the France Télévisions Group of the broadcasting rights for 9 matches of the 2026 Six Nations Tournament. This agreement with the France Télévisions Group around the 2026 Six Nations Tournament, following the announcement of the exclusive acquisition of the rights to the 2027 Rugby World Cup, the 2026 and 2028 Rugby Nations Championships as well as the 2027 Summer Nations Series and the 2029 Autumn Nations Series, strengthens the TF1 Group's sports broadcasting offer and contributes to the positioning of rugby as the second pillar of our sports events offering alongside football.



Bulgarian NOVA turns film casting into hit reality format

On 11 January, NOVA aired the premiere of "You're Playing... Stoichkov," an original reality-documentary format that turns a traditional casting process into prime-time television. The series follows a real-life search for the actor who will portray Bulgarian football legend Hristo Stoichkov in an upcoming feature film dedicated to his life and career.



WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY

Pantheon of pundits unveiled for team Warner Bros. Discovery in Europe for Milano

Cortina 2026

With just one month to go until the world comes together in Italy to mark the Opening Ceremony at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD) revealed the full line-up of Winter Olympians set to be part of its coverage across Europe of every event. The Home of the Olympics in Europe, WBD has assembled a pantheon of winter sports presenters, pundits and commentators to help tell the stories of the Games and its athletes.

About the Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe

The Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe represents the interests of leading commercial broadcasters across Europe and beyond. The ACT member companies finance, produce, promote and distribute content and services benefiting millions of Europeans across all platforms. At ACT we believe that the healthy and sustainable commercial broadcasting sector has an important role to play in the European economy, society and culture. Our role is to protect and to promote the interests of the European private broadcasters. We engage with the EU institutions to achieve a balanced and appropriate regulatory framework which will encourage further investment and growth in our sector. This will allow the commercial audiovisual industry to continue to do what we do best – getting great content to viewers.