

What's happening in European Commercial and VOD Broadcasting 13-17 April 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

- [Paddington The Musical triumphs at Olivier Awards](#)
- [MFE full year results](#)
- [Mediaset España fires up the engines on motorsports](#)
- [“The real freedom of the press is the freedom to ask questions”](#)
- [Multi-BAFTA-winning Chernobyl makes its free-to-air debut, marking 40 years since the disaster](#)
- [National Geographic unveils first look trailer for the new season of Emmy-nominated series ‘Tucci in Italy’](#)



[Paddington The Musical triumphs at Olivier Awards](#)

‘Paddington The Musical’ triumphed at the Olivier Awards, taking home seven prizes, including Best New Musical. This achievement marks a significant milestone for the iconic franchise, brought to life by StudioCanal, reflecting its ability to develop stories across formats and connect with audiences worldwide.



[MFE full year results](#)

On 15 April 2026, the Board of Directors of MFE – MEDIAFORERUROPE approved the results for the year ending 31 December 2025. MFE reported strong growth, with significant improvements across all key performance indicators. Pier Silvio Berlusconi, Chairman and CEO of the Group, stated: “Ours is an extremely complex sector. The challenge is to withstand the overwhelming dominance of the major global platforms and the impact of technological innovation, even more so against a backdrop of increasing economic and geopolitical fragility and instability. It takes courage. To be more effective and efficient. To keep growing. And this is our challenge”.

[MEDIASETespaña.](#)



[Mediaset España fires up the engines on motorsports](#)

Mediaset España has secured a deal with DAZN, the official Formula 1 rights holder, and MotoGP Sports Entertainment Group to broadcast some of the season’s most thrilling races on free-to-air television. Viewers will be able to enjoy for free the Spanish rounds of the Formula 1 World Championship in Madrid and Barcelona, two of the season’s most

eagerly awaited races, along with MotoGP action in Jerez, Barcelona, and Valencia. This partnership strengthens Mediaset España's commitment to making top-level sports accessible to everyone, bringing motor racing events closer to fans across the country.



[“The real freedom of the press is the freedom to ask questions”](#)

On 24 March 2026, colleagues met at the Bertelsmann representative office in Berlin to exchange on the evolving challenges facing press freedom and independent journalism during the latest ‘Freedom of the press’ working group meeting. Sonja Schwetje, Chair of the working group, highlighted the importance of dialogue across RTL Group and Bertelsmann divisions: “The different perspectives in this group are a real strength as they help us to look at challenges in a more differentiated way and learn from each other.”



[Multi-BAFTA-winning Chernobyl makes its free-to-air debut, marking 40 years since the disaster](#)

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Sky will bring its multi-BAFTA-winning Sky Original drama Chernobyl to free-to-air TV for the first time, airing nightly on Sky Mix and Sky Atlantic from 20 April. In 2020, the mini-series, produced by Sister, The Mighty Mint and Word Games, became the most awarded British TV series in a single year, picking up nine BAFTAs, including Mini-Series and Leading Actor for Jared Harris. It has also received widespread international acclaim, winning multiple Golden Globes and Primetime Emmy Awards, and remains one of the highest-rated dramas of all time.



[National Geographic unveils first look trailer for the new season of Emmy-nominated series ‘Tucci in Italy’](#)

From overlooked regions to fiercely debated food origins, National Geographic's Emmy-nominated series ‘Tucci in Italy’ returns for a second season, with all episodes streaming May 12 on Disney+. The series will premiere on National Geographic in the UK on May 12 at 8pm. Revealing a deeper, more personal journey, the Academy Award nominee, Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning actor Stanley Tucci returns to his beloved Italy, visiting five new regions — Naples and Campania, Sicily, Le Marche, Sardinia, and Veneto— to trace the link between Italy's historical landscape and its culinary traditions, where the ritual of the shared meal remains the ultimate expression of its people.

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.