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Parliament elects new AMA chair

The Parliament elected today the new chair of the regulator on audiovisual media, Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA.) The new chair of AMA will be Gentian Sala. He is a lawyer, graduating from Law Faculty in 2001. In 2008 he has obtained a master's degree in "European Studies" at the University of Tirana. He has experience as activist at the Albanian Helsinki Committee, focusing on rights of detainees and pre-detainees. From 2004-2008 he has worked mainly as a lawyer. Then he has worked more on commercial business activities, as a manager and co-owner of different companies. He has also been part of the structures of Digitalb, the main commercial multiplex in the country. During the voting Sala received most votes, namely 79 votes pro and 1 against.

Before the voting, the media reported that the parliamentary group of the ruling Socialist Party in its meeting before the session had decided to support this candidate out of the four shortlisted applicants. Alfred Peza, deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Media gave a brief overview of the process that led to the shortlisting of the four candidates for AMA chair. He explained that despite the repeated calls to the opposition to return to the parliament and participate in the process of eliminating the candidates, there was no positive response. Hence, he said that the ruling majority was forced to proceed with the selection process on its own, as completing the number of missing members and chair in this institution was an urgent matter that could not longer wait.

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