

**DATE**

11 May 2024

**BY EMAIL**

**To: Sharon Drikes – KAN Head of Delegation**

[sharond@kan.org.il](mailto:sharond@kan.org.il)

**REFERENCE**

Eurovision Song Contest 2024 (ESC 2024)

**SUBJECT**

Israeli media team and commentators - Warning Notice

Dear Sharon,

We are writing to you further to the reporting of certain breaches of applicable EBU rules for this year ESC by the members of KAN's delegation. This concerns namely the Israeli media team and commentators.

In particular, we have received official complains that the Israeli media team has behaved over the past days in a rather intrusive, offensive and provocative manner towards other delegations. In that respect, we would kindly remind you that Participating Broadcasters are all required to respect the filming rules applicable for delegations<sup>1</sup> and the ESC Rules<sup>2</sup> which set principles to be respected when filming backstage or in the Event premises. In particular, it is expected from Participating Broadcasters to respect privacy, provide fair coverage, avoid harmful or offensive content and does not bring disrepute to the ESC.

In addition, it has come to our attention that KAN's commentators have made discriminatory comments towards performances of certain countries, and namely towards the Irish performance. In that respect, we would like to remind you that Section 2.2.16 of Part 2 of the ESC Rules<sup>3</sup> states that "commentators shall remain neutral and should not make unduly discriminatory comments about the contestants or the songs".

In view of this, we hereby give KAN formal notice to respect the rules applicable to the ESC which are there to protect the smooth operation of the ESC and its integrity.

As you have been informed, your delegation will be moved from the delegation area in order to avoid further incidents and complains and we hereby urge you to ensure that all members of your delegation abide by all applicable rules and adopt at all times a behaviour in line with the ESC Values.

We would like to remind you that any behaviour which harms the reputation and/or the integrity of the Shows, is subject to the application of punitive fines in accordance with Section 5.2.1 of Part 2 of the ESC Rules. The right to apply sanctions in accordance with the ESC Rules is therefore hereby reserved.

With kind regards



Bakel Walden  
Chairman of the ESC Reference Group



Martin Osterdahl  
ESC Executive Supervisor

<sup>1</sup> Annexe 1: Extract of Filming Rules for Delegations

<sup>2</sup> Annexe 2 : Extract ESC Rules applicable to commentators

<sup>3</sup> Annexe 2 : Extract ESC Rules applicable to commentators

## Annexe 1: Extract of 2024 Filming Rules for Delegations

### 1. FILMING RULES

Members of the EBU having entered a contestant to represent their country in the 2024 ESC (the "Participating Broadcasters") are entitled to the following filming rights:

#### a) FILMING BACKSTAGE, IN THE DELEGATION BUBBLE AND IN OTHER ESC PREMISES

As a general rule, Participating Broadcasters are welcome to film their own delegations' experience and interactions with other delegations at the 2024 ESC and to share the content so filmed on all platforms as long as the content made available:

- respects the core values of the ESC, and namely the principles of universality, inclusivity, diversity and unity;
- without restricting the application of the ESC Rules, does not, directly or indirectly, include, feature and/or aim at promoting, supporting or otherwise endorsing any organization, institution, political cause or any other cause of any kind whatsoever, company, brand, product or service;
- respects the privacy of individuals (including artists) does not unduly overexpose their contestant, includes fair coverage of other delegations and is not detrimental or prejudicial to the other delegations, artists and/or the ESC; The interests and the image of all Artists participating in the ESC shall be protected from abuses and each of them should be treated equitably in all cases;
- shall be exempt from any elements which may be regarded as harmful, offensive, provocative or illegal, which may harm the image or the reputation of the ESC, the EBU and/or of the Participating Broadcasters
- does not infringe intellectual property rights or other rights of the EBU and its Members;
- does not bring into disrepute the preparations, the rehearsals or the shows and/or the ESC in general; in particular, in case of incident, emergency or accident, no photography, filming, or information shall be permitted. [...]

## Annexe 2: Rules applicable to commentators

### 2.2.16 COMMENTATORS SPOKESPERSONS AND STAFF

Each Participating Broadcaster shall ensure that its commentators and spokespersons respect the spirit and fairness of the competition.

The commentators and spokespersons shall not make any gestures or speeches of a political, commercial or similar nature or use swearing or other unacceptable language, and/or make any sexist, racist or otherwise unduly discriminatory comments about the Contestant(s) or songs.

Commentators shall refrain from talking during the performance of the songs and from urging the audience to vote for, or not to vote for, any particular song. In addition, commentators and spokespersons shall abstain from conveying messages promoting any organization, institution, political cause or other, company, brand, products or services.

The commentators and spokespersons shall be neutral and shall in no case have been involved in the composition of the music or in the writing of the lyrics of any song participating in the ESC.

The provisions of the present paragraph shall similarly apply to all the members of the delegations and to the staff of the Participating Broadcasters in all communications around the ESC, including in the press, in social media channels and online platforms and the like; the Participating Broadcaster shall ensure that at all times the editorial line adopted in relation to the ESC is fair and respects its integrity and image as well as the participants; and