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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND CRIMINAL LAW PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (ANALYSIS OF THE CRIMINAL LEGISLATION OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES)

The author scrutinizes the problem of criminal limitations in the freedom of speech through the prism of the European standards of mass media protection. Criminal legislation of the European countries is analyzed as to the presence of limitations in the freedom of speech. Criminal acts in the European countries pay great attention to the human rights protection, to the inviolability of private life, to the preservation and protection of individual's confidential information, to the establishing substantial barriers of public dissemination of definite facts about the individual by mass media.

The author examines the impact of criminal law regarding privacy on freedom of speech and activity of journalists. The author conducted a comparative le-

gal analysis of the criminal laws of the European countries on criminal responsibility for violation of privacy. It was found that almost every country in Europe has the criminal liability for collection, storage and dissemination of confidential information about a person. The rights to freedom of speech and privacy are fundamental human rights inherent in any person. Criminal legislation of the European countries is analyzed as to the presence of limitations in the freedom of speech and mass media's activity, that, on the whole, meet the requirements of necessity and expediency of their introduction in democratic society. The necessity of further introduction of the decisions of the European court of human rights into national legislation is confirmed.