



Declaration For an overhaul of the audiovisual regulation in the digital environment

The member authorities of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA), gathered for a plenary assembly in Marseilles on 16 and 17 November 2017 on the occasion of the Network's 20th anniversary.

Committed, in line with the Barcelona Declaration of 27 and 28 November 1995, to the **common cultural and historical heritage** that forms the basis of the **Mediterranean civilisation**;

Reaffirming **the permanence and relevance of the common principles** outlined in 2008 in the Marrakesh-Reggio Calabria Declaration on the regulation of audiovisual content, i.e. the respect for human beings, the fight against incitement to hatred and violence, the fight against discriminations, the preservation of the rule of law, the protection of childhood and adolescence, the honesty of information, and the pluralism of opinions;

Convinced that freedom of audiovisual communication can contribute to **tackling the multiple challenges, which the region as a whole currently faces**: economic development, migration challenges, political pluralism, terrorist threats;

In this context, highlighting particularly the **authorities' mission to ensure that audiovisual media services contribute to social cohesion, notably** by fostering media literacy, by putting a specific attention to equality between women and men and to the fight against all forms of discrimination, by promoting diversity and by ensuring that media coverage be adapted to crisis situations;

Aware of the fact that **rapid and profound changes** in audiovisual communication in the digital era have given rise to **new opportunities and issues**, particularly due to the multitude of actors and multiple ways of accessing media and audiovisual content, the development of new usages, and the cross-border circulation of services and data;

Considering **the growing role of video-sharing platforms, social networks, and livestreaming services** in informing the public as well as shaping public opinion and cultural references, especially for younger **generations**;

Considering that access to media and audiovisual content via **algorithms** should not be at the expense of the pluralism of opinions and the promotion of cultural diversity, especially as the Mediterranean basin is considered a melting pot of cultures;

Agreeing on the need to **adapt the scope and forms of regulation** to the digital environment, in order to ensure respect for the fundamental principles shared by Mediterranean regulators;

Mindful of the various initiatives aiming at adapting the audiovisual legal framework to the digital environment, such as the ongoing work taking place at the European level;

Commit themselves, by this Declaration and in accordance with the attributions acknowledged in respect of each one of them, **to working together resolutely in favour of an audiovisual regulation that is adapted to the digital era and its democratic requirements**, especially **its objective of social cohesion, which is more than ever shared across the Mediterranean area.**

The member authorities of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities thus commit themselves, in accordance with their attributions, to:

- **adapting their regulatory practices and tools, by ensuring that all audiovisual communication stakeholders be associated to their work**, especially the new digital service providers;
- **bringing together and sharing their knowledge and digital regulation practices, by strengthening their co-operation within the MNRA and on a bilateral basis;**
- **continuing and deepening the MNRA's work** on the necessary overhaul of the audiovisual regulation to the digital age;
- **making their work available to public authorities** as well as regional and international authorities, so it may be considered as part of the assessment of the challenges to audiovisual communication in the digital era.

MNRA, 19th Plenary Assembly, Marseilles, France, 17 November 2017