



Declaration on the informative treatment of Mediterranean migrant and refugee crisis in the audiovisual media

The Member Authorities of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA), hereinafter referred to as Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities, met on 17 and 18 November 2016 in Barcelona, Spain, under the presidency of the Agency for Electronic Media of Croatia (AEM) at the invitation of the Spanish Commission for Markets and Competition (CNMC), appointed President of the network during the meeting.

Concerned about the unprecedented displacement crisis the world is facing and particularly the Mediterranean region where several million people, including refugees and migrants were displaced from their places of origin;

Recognizing that the Mediterranean is at the heart of this phenomenon, which poses new policy, social, and humanitarian challenges to Mediterranean countries and societies;
Recalling the wide variety of coverage of the ongoing refugees and migrant crisis on the audiovisual media, which sometimes portrays this phenomenon from an unbalanced perspective;

Being fully aware that audiovisual media can play an essential role in contributing to greater understanding, acceptance and respect of human rights of migrants and refugees through an objective, unbiased and accurate representation of this phenomenon;

Reaffirming their willingness to give full effect to the Declaration of the MNRA on Audiovisual Content Regulation, adopted on 3 October 2008, in Reggio Calabria, Italy;

The Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities hereby decide to adopt the present Declaration on the audiovisual treatment of migrants and refugees' crisis, founded on the global vision of the Mediterranean culture.

The Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities appreciate the efforts done by the audiovisual media on reinforcing the awareness of citizens. Within their respective legal frameworks and in compliance with their specific competences, they express their willingness to encourage audiovisual media to respect the following guidelines when providing information on the migration and refugees' phenomenon:

- Applying and respecting the following five core principles of journalism in their work: accuracy, independence, fair reporting, humanity and accountability;

- Preserving quality of information and providing in-depth analyses in order to prevent a false impression of truth and reality based on audiovisual content spread under pure urgency, spectacular or quantity criteria. Avoiding the repetitive use of stock footage which may not reflect the events reported;
- Avoiding a partial or uncompleted description of the facts, by providing context, a thorough analysis as well as a wide range of views and opinions, in order to present a complete view of these phenomena to citizens. Ensuring that migrants and refugees speak for themselves as protagonists;
- Safeguarding, when dealing with information, the common objectives of social cohesion and fight against discrimination. Fostering a proper and inclusive use of language, preventing, in particular, hate speech and racism;
- Respecting Human Rights, and particularly when dealing with information of human interest, the limits of dignity, intimacy and individual or collective identity of those affected, avoiding stereotypes, and taking into account protection of minors and their image rights.

MNRA, 18th Plenary Assembly, Barcelona, Spain, November 18, 2016