



11th Technical Commission of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities
30 June 2017
Paris, Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel

The 11th Technical Commission of MNRA met in Paris at the invitation of the President of the Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel (CSA), who assumes the Vice-Presidency of the Network.

Six authorities were represented:

- the Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia (CNMC) of Spain for the Presidency of MNRA;
- the Agency for Electronic Media (AEM) of Croatia (outgoing Presidency);
- the Conseil supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA) of France as Vice-Presidency and Executive Secretariat of the Network;
- the Consell de l'Audiovisual de Catalunya (CAC) of Catalonia, Spain, as founding member of the Network;
- the Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social (ERC) of Portugal, as founding member of the Network;
- the Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle (HACA) of Morocco under the Executive Secretariat;
- the Consejo Audiovisual de Andalucía (CAA) of Andalucía, Spain, present that day after the meeting of the Gender and Media Working Group on 29 June 29 at the CSA.

The Autorità per le garanzie nelle comunicazioni (AGCOM) of Italy, the National Council for Radio and Television (NCRTV) of Greece invited as founding members were unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Olivier Schrameck, Vice-President of MNRA, welcomed the participants and opened the works of the Technical Commission.

Mr. Josep María Guinart, Member of the Council of the CNMC of Spain, who runs the Presidency of the Network, presented the agenda of the meeting and presented the undertakings of the Network since the 18th Plenary Assembly.

Minutes and Record of Decisions

1. Follow-up on the work of MNRA

a. Proceedings of the 18th Plenary Assembly

- **Adoption of the minutes and reminders of the decisions taken at the 18th Plenary Assembly** of 17 and 18 November 2017 in Barcelona.

- **Network activities:**

- **African-Ibero-American Inter-Network meetings (ACRAN-PRAI-MNRA) organized by the HACA of Morocco in Fez from 16 to 18 March 2017:**

The CNMC presidency recalled the importance of international cooperation between networks of regulators. The presidency highlighted in particular the stakes of the Fez meetings in terms of sharing and exchanging experiences aimed at strengthening the relations in between regulators from the South.

- **Follow-up of the Declaration on the informative treatment of Mediterranean migrant and refugee crisis in the audiovisual media adopted in Barcelona on 17 November 2016.**

➔ **Proposal by the CNMC to put on the agenda of the 19th Plenary Assembly a point related to the follow-up of the Declaration of Barcelona.**

➔ **Proposal by Ms. Mémona Hintermann-Afféjee, member of the CSA, to reflect on our perception of "How we see others" beyond the treatment of migrants.** Ms. Hintermann-Afféjee, for that purpose, recalled the works performed at the CSA by the "*Observatoire de la Diversité*".

b. Work of the Gender and Media Working Group

Ms. Julia López de Sà, Deputy Director of Audiovisual of the CNMC and Chair of the MNRA Gender and Media Working Group reported on the **conclusions of the Gender and Media Working Group** meeting at the CSA on **29 June 2017**.

She presented the first results of the ongoing study on gender equality in sports programs. On the basis of contributions from the AEM of Croatia, the CAA of Andalusia (Spain), the CAC of Catalonia (Spain), the CNMC of Spain, the ERC of Portugal and the HACA of Morocco, the first results reveal the very low presence of women in the number and duration of sports information.

In particular, the predominance of information related to men's sports and the low percentage of speaking time for women on these programs in the six countries have been mentioned.

Ms. Nathalie Sonnac, member of the CSA in charge of sports issues, spoke about the action of the Council on gender equality through the concrete example of the promotion of women's sport on television and radio, the **"4 seasons of women's sport"**.

Next steps for the study on gender equality in sports programs:

- ➔ **Replies to the CNMC questionnaire** should be sent by non-subscribing members to this date, **CSA (France) and REM (Serbia), by 30 July 2017.**
- ➔ **Draft of the final report** of the study in **September** under the direction of the CNMC.
The report will incorporate the results of the comparative study, the replies to the questionnaire, the national reports of members on the issue of gender equality in sports programs.
- ➔ **Presentation of the final report of the study to the Plenary Assembly in Marseille on 16 and 17 November 2017.** The report will incorporate the recommendations of the Gender and Media Working Group (proposals of action points for broadcasters).

Future work of the Gender and Media Working Group:

- ➔ The proposal of the WG to continue its works on **gender-based violence issues**, supported by the HACA of Morocco, the CAA of Andalusia and the CAC of Catalonia, will be submitted to the Plenary Assembly.
- ➔ **Promotion of gender equality in the international organizations concerned by the subject.**
Ms. Amina Lemrini El Ouahabi, President of the Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle (HACA) of Morocco, spoke about this issue, stressing its fundamental character in the Mediterranean region.
In particular, Ms. Lemrini drew members' attention to the international role of the MNRA in realizing the recognition of the role of regulators as partners in achieving gender equality.
She presented the works of the United Nations and UNESCO:
 - **GAMAG**, the **UNESCO Global Gender and Media Alliance**, promoting gender equality in and through the media.
 - **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the main global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
The 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women **CSW62 2018** will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018.
It will be dedicated to “the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women”.
- ➔ Ms. Lemrini proposed that the **MNRA be present at CSW62 2018, either by participating in its work, or by organizing a MNRA side-event.**
- ➔ **For that purpose, she suggested the implementation of a platform** by the Gender and Media WG under the leadership of the HACA, in order to **highlight the work of the networks of regulators and notably the work of the MNRA on gender equality, to be presented to the CSW62 2018.**

These proposals, aiming at giving visibility to MNRA on the international scene and developing cooperation with other networks were supported by the Spanish Presidency (CNMC) and by Mr. Carlos Magno, President of the ERC.

➔ **Organization of a Gender and Media WG meeting in Lisbon in September, at the invitation of the ERC, in order to prepare a document to be presented to the new Secretary-General of the UN (Antonio Guterres, former Portuguese Prime Minister) at the CSW62 2018 in New York.**

Those initiatives will be mentioned at the next Plenary Assembly.

2. Preparation of the 19th Plenary Assembly of Marseille

a. Topics to be included in the agenda: proposals and debates

Olivier Schrameck, vice-president of MNRA, and host of the next Plenary Assembly to be held in Marseille on 16 and 17 November 2017, **presented to the participants the themes' suggestions received** in response to the letter sent on 26 April 2017 to members of the network.

Mr. Schrameck highlighted **the richness of this issue in the light of the current and regulatory challenges in a fast-growing digital environment** and their relevance in relation to the revision of the European Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).

CT members were invited to present their ideas and suggestions of themes.

Yvonne Griley, member of CAC (Catalonia), shared the same observation by stressing the challenges that regulators face today in reconciling the objectives of protecting minors with the regulation of new modes of communication.

She recalled that the ongoing work of the renegotiation of the AVMSD which should extend its scope to video sharing platforms and social networks but stressed that in terms of harmful content the responsibility would fall to the platforms through self-regulation. She also referred to the recent CAC interventions on content online that was harmful to minors.

Carlos Magno, President of ERC (Portugal), spoke about the CSA's intervention in Edinburgh at the last meeting of the European Platform for Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) on algorithms in May 2017. He would like to extend the dialogue on this topic at the Marseille Plenary Assembly.

Olivier Schrameck pointed out that with convergence, the questions facing regulators today do resonate within the scope of their missions. These must integrate **the security imperatives of the public space of communication, in particular in terms of protection of diversity and the fight against discriminations.**

Developments linked to the presence of actors who do not fall under the direct competence of the audiovisual regulatory bodies reveal the complexity of **the articulation of the mechanisms of regulation, co-regulation, recommendation and self-regulation to be implemented.**

Mr. Olivier Schrameck, referring to the latest EPRA work on algorithms, last May, in Edinburgh, underlined the relevance of the ongoing reflection on the modernization of this digital regulation.

- ➔ **On the proposal of the chairman of the CSA, a document on the regulation of digital technology could be submitted to the 19th Plenary Assembly in order to define a common position of the Mediterranean regulators on this topic.**
- ➔ **The common Marseille Declaration could be shared with the European Union regulators meeting within ERGA.**

In this context, Amina Lemrini (HACA) stressed the importance of exchanging on the global issues of regulation and media in the Mediterranean, as well as on thematic issues. She called for promoting the participation of member authorities on the southern shore of the Mediterranean basin. She mentioned in particular the existence of the regulatory bodies of Egypt and Algeria. Finally, she drew attention to the need to exchange on media literacy in relation with the protection of young audiences.

Damir Hajduk (AEM) supported the themes of cohesion and diversity, so that they could be represented on two or three sessions.

b. Proposal for a draft agenda of the Marseille Plenary Assembly

An exchange took place concerning the structure of the PA around a plenary session devoted to **the adaptation of audiovisual regulation and digital environment.**

Next steps concerning the agenda of the 19th Marseille PA:

- ➔ **An e-mail proposing an agenda for the 19th Marseille PA will be sent by the CSA mid-July to the members of the CT, for agreement.**
- ➔ **An invitation letter will be sent by the CSA to the members of the network with the agenda validated by the members of the TC for the 19th PA in September.**

3. Life of the Network

a. Revision of the MNRA website

The draft redesign of the MNRA website administered by the CSA was presented in a session by the CSA's Information and Corporate Communication Directorate (DICI). The project incorporates unchanged but improved features and an Arabic version powered by the HACA of Morocco.

Proposal number two with a photograph of a panoramic view of the Aegean Sea was chosen by the members for the page of presentation of the site.

The new site will be unveiled during the 19th Plenary Assembly, celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the network created in 1997.

b. Update on the new organization of the Executive Secretariat

The network charter adopted at the 18th Plenary Assembly in Barcelona enshrines the new mode of governance of MNRA around the "troika" composed of the presidency, the two vice-presidencies (outgoing presidency and incoming vice-presidency), the Technical Commission and the Executive Secretariat composed of the HACA and the CSA.

The CSA presented the new functioning of the executive secretariat and its missions.

A unique e-mail address for the Executive Secretariat, MNRAsecretariat@rirm.org, was created. It allows a shared access window between the HACA and the CSA, a communication and support tool for the Presidency and the Vice-Presidencies, as well as for the network and its members.

c. Reminder of the procedure for the forthcoming vice-presidency

- An e-mail from the Executive Secretariat recalling the procedure for inviting candidates to the incoming Vice-Presidency 2017-2018 and inviting members to express their interest and send their written application, will be sent early August.**
- 15 September: deadline for receipt of applications by the Executive Secretariat.**
- End of September: communication of the list of candidates.**

c. Update on the application for membership to MNRA

The Presidency - CNMC announced the application for membership of the Supreme Broadcasting Council of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (letter of 3 April 2017 to the Croatian Regulatory Authority, AEM, letter of 10 April 2017 to the Presidency, CNMC).

The Presidency - CNMC replied by a letter of 5 May 2017, reminding the provisions of Article 3 of the Network Charter on Accessions, and inviting it to refer to the secretariat of the MNRA.

Cyprus Radio Television Authority (CRTA), member of the network, called the attention of the Presidency of the MNRA, on the unrecognized character of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in a letter of 28 June 2017. The CRTA also indicates an earlier 2000 membership attempt which had been refused.

Article 3 of the Charter of the MNRA stipulates that: "*Membership in the Network is open to national and regional independent regulators dealing with the audiovisual sector and belonging to countries in the Mediterranean region.*"

The debate opened on the possibility for the network to accept the candidacy of a State not recognized by the international community.

All the participants concluded it would be impossible.

- A letter of reply from the presidency-CNMC will inform the Supreme Broadcasting Council on this matter.**

d. Proposal of a modernized logo

The CSA indicates that it has been working on the modernization of the RIRM logo, which appears to be somewhat outdated.

The DICI of the **CSA presented the current logo and two modernized logo projects**. If the participants of the Technical Commission have given their assent to this approach, **the decision on the selection of a new logo is postponed**.

4. Conclusion

The works were closed. The MNRA will meet again at the 19th Plenary Assembly in Marseille on 16 and 17 November 2017.