



12th Technical Commission of the Network of Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities

29 June 2018
Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

The 12th MNRA Technical Commission met in Barcelona on 29 June 2018, at the invitation of the President of the Consell de l'Audiovisual de Catalunya (CAC), who is the incoming Vice-President of the network and will host the 20th Plenary Assembly on 22 and 23 November.

In addition to the CAC, six authorities were represented:

- the Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel (CSA) of France as President of the network and Executive Secretariat;
- the Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia (CNMC) of Spain as outgoing Vice-President;
- The Autorità per le garanzie nelle comunicazioni (AGCOM) of Italy, a founding member of the network;
- the Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social (ERC) of Portugal, a founding member of the network;
- the National Radio and Television Council (NCRTV) of Greece, a founding member of the network;
- the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA) of Morocco, as Executive Secretariat.

Minutes and Record of Decisions

Mr. Roger Loppacher, MNRA incoming Vice-President and host of the meeting, welcomed the participants and opened the work of the Technical Commission.

Mr Frédéric Bokobza, Deputy Director General of the CSA, representing Mr. Olivier Shrameck, President of the Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel CSA (France) and current President of the MNRA, recalled the purpose of the meeting, in accordance with Article 5 of the Network Charter.

I - Follow-up of the Network's work since the 19th Plenary Assembly

The following were mentioned:

1/ Workshop on the informative treatment of the mediterranean migrants and refugees' crisis in the audiovisual media organised by the CNMC on 28 June 2018 in Barcelona as a follow-up to the Barcelona Declaration

Mr. Josep Maria Guinart, Member of the CNMC and outgoing Vice-President of MNRA, gave an initial assessment of the workshop held the previous day with the participation of various stakeholders, media professionals, journalists, representatives of international organizations, regulators and civil society.

Mr Guinart stressed the positive nature of the meeting and the relevance of the exchanges on the role of journalists and the responsibility of regulators for the respect of freedom of expression and respect for fundamental rights in the handling of information relating to the crisis of Mediterranean refugees and migrants.

He also stressed the importance of continuing the network's advocacy and awareness-raising work on this subject.

- *The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop will be presented by the CNMC at the 20th Plenary Assembly on 22 and 23 November 2018.*

2/ Participation of Regulators' Networks in the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 2018, New York

At the initiative of Ms. Amina Lemrini Elouahabi, President of the HACA of Morocco, The regulators of the French Speaking Media Regulatory Authorities Network (REFRAM), of the African Communication Regulation Authorities Network (ACRAN), of the Ibero-American platform of Audiovisual Regulators (PRAI), of the Platform of West African Economic and Monetary Union Regulators (UEMOA) and of the MNRA represented by Sylvie Pierre Brossolette, member of the CSA in the capacity of chair of the Network, met at the the **Side Event on Freedom of Communication and Gender Equality** held on **15 March** on the margins of the 62nd session of the CSW.

On this occasion, **the regulators issued a joint statement on gender equality in the media.**

Ms Amina Lemrini Elouahabi highlighted the importance of the event and the parallel advocacy actions that enabled regulators to make their commitments to gender equality known on the international scene.

- *HACA will present a report on this event with lessons and recommendations to the Barcelona Plenary Assembly on 22 and 23 November 2018.*

3/ Ongoing work of the Gender and Media Working Group on the treatment of information on gender violence

Ms. Carme Figueras, member of the Catalan CAC, as co-chair of the working group, presented the progress of the study being carried out by the working group.

In particular, she recalled the definition of gender violence from the Istanbul Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and presented the overall framework of the study.

The study involves the Croatian, Andalusian, Catalan, Spanish, French, Greek, Portuguese, Moroccan and Serbian authorities. The CCSB of Israel, which had expressed its interest, must confirm its participation.

At the invitation of the CAC and ERC, co-chairs of the WG, two working meetings were held on 23 February in Lisbon and 27 April in Barcelona on methodology and indicators.

The study includes:

- an inventory of the current legal frameworks on gender violence based on members' responses to the questionnaire sent on 23 March 2018;
- a comparative analysis of the treatment of information on gender violence during the months of March, April and May 2018 in the midday and evening news programmes (a public channel, a private channel): information on attacks on women and/or murders of women and public policies to prevent gender-based violence, awareness campaigns.

Proposals and reactions:

- Building on the achievements of the workshop held the previous day on the informative treatment of the Mediterranean migrants and refugees' crisis, the President of the HACA of Morocco suggested introducing the issue of gender violence against migrant and refugee women as a new element of analysis.
- Ms Charis Tsigou, representative of the NCRTV of Greece, member of the working group, presented the work carried out by the NCRTV in collaboration with the National Centre for Gender Equality on the legal aspects of the current study.
- Ms Sonia Monjas (CNMC) informed that the MNRA study on sexist stereotypes in advertising was discussed and welcomed at the last EPRA meeting in Luxembourg in May 2018.

Next steps:

- *The ERC of Portugal will present a summary of the current legislative framework at the 20th Plenary Assembly.*
- *December 15, 2018 was chosen as the deadline for sending the analysis on monitoring (covering the period from March to May 2018).*
- *The final study will be presented in 2019.*

4/ Information on upcoming activities

Mr. Frédéric Bokobza referred to the project, which remains to be confirmed, to hold a meeting of the presidents of the ERGA, EPRA, MNRA, PRAI, REFRAM and RIARC regulatory networks in October 2018 in Paris.

II - Preparation of the 20th Plenary Assembly, Barcelona, 22-23 November 2018

1/ Topics to be included in the agenda

Mr. Roger Loppacher presented the two themes proposed by the CAC ("the consequences of new online audiovisual media services on the media ecosystem and on human rights" and "the future of public service media") as well as the various proposals received from member bodies.

He referred to the ongoing revision of the EU's AVMS Directive and stressed the relevance for regulators to address, in the light of this revision, the future of public service media in the digital age.

He then invited participants to present their ideas and proposals for themes.

Mr. Frédéric Bokobza (CSA) indicated that the CSA, in its capacity as chair of the network, will speak on the follow-up to the Marseille Declaration "For a renewed audiovisual regulation in the digital environment". This monitoring can be carried out at national level, by presenting the results of a survey of Member Authorities on the evolution of their competences and forms of regulation.

The representatives of the **ERC (Portugal)** and the **CNMC (Spain)** mentioned the importance of addressing the issue of "transparency" (including transparency of media ownership) in the light of the revision of the AVMS Directive.

Ms. Amina Lemrini Elouahabi suggested that each authority should make a presentation at the opening of the plenary session on their activities and on the evolution of their audiovisual landscape over the past year, in line with what is being done in other networks. She also made the proposal to address the theme of "the changing role of regulators in the digital environment".

Drawing on best practices from other regulatory networks, **Mr. Amin Azziman**, Director of International Cooperation at **HACA** of Morocco, proposed to introduce a new format for simultaneous interactive thematic workshops (including the "World Cafe" format), used in particular at recent REFRAM and EPRA meetings, and which allows more topics of common interest to be covered with feedback/share the results in plenary.

Next steps:

- *A letter from the Vice-President proposing an agenda for the 20th Plenary Assembly will be sent to members with a view to collecting their proposals in September. Members will be asked to provide a short report, modelled on those sent to EPRA, gathering information on audiovisual regulation and policy in their country, for the information of other members.*
- *As part of the follow-up to the Marseille Declaration "For an overhaul of the audiovisual regulation in the digital environment" carried out by the French Presidency, members will be invited, on the occasion of this report, to report on the evolution of their competences and regulatory tools in the field of online services.*
- *The agenda will be finalised in September after the collection of proposals for intervention from members.*

2/ Life of the Network

Reminder of the procedure for the future Vice-presidency (Article 4 of the Charter). No candidates have so far come forward.

- *An e-mail from the Executive Secretariat recalling the procedure for calling for nominations for the incoming Vice-Presidency and inviting members to express their interest and submit their written application will be sent on 15 July.*
- *21 September: deadline for receipt of applications by the Executive Secretariat.*
- *End of September: communication of the list of candidates to all MNRA members.*