



22nd Plenary Assembly, 28 and 29 September 2023

Tirana, Albania

Minutes and Action Points

The 22nd MNRA Plenary Assembly was held in Tirana, Albania, on 28-29 September 2023, at the invitation of the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA) of Albania, which holds the Presidency of the network.

Twenty member authorities from eighteen countries and territories around the Mediterranean were present: AMA of Albania, CTR of Armenia, CRTA of Cyprus, AEM of Croatia, Arcom of France, GRA of Gibraltar, NCRTV of Greece, AGCOM of Italy, IMC of Kosovo, BA of Malta, HACA of Morocco, CA of Moldova, AEM of Montenegro, ERC of Portugal, AVMU of Macedonia, REM of Serbia, CAA of Andalusia, CAC of Catalonia, CNMC of Spain, RTUK of Turkey. Representatives from UNESCO, TikTok and Meta also took part in the discussions.

The meeting was held in person.

Minutes (I)

Thursday 28 September 2023

- **Speech by Josip Popovac, President of the AEM and outgoing Vice-President of the MNRA.**

The handover took place between the outgoing Croatian vice-presidency and the Albanian presidency. Armela Krasiniqi succeeds Josip Popovac as president of the network.

- **Opening speech by Armela Krasniqi, AMA President and MNRA Chairman.**

Armela Krasniqi welcomes the participants and opens the session.

- **The EMFA, quality journalism and fact-checking**

Giacomo Lasorella, President of ERGA, AGCOM, Italy, gave an overview of recent European legislation on audiovisual and online content, in particular the implementation of the DSA. He then emphasized the importance of the EMFA, which will harmonize national

legislations and better protect the right of EU citizens to access quality media. He detailed certain articles of the EMFA which reinforce the protection of journalists (articles 4 to 6) and establish enhanced cooperation between regulators.

Frédéric Bokobza, Deputy Director-General, Arcom, France, recalled the crucial role of platforms in the fight against disinformation. He elaborated on some of the specific debates that underpinned the development of the EMFA, including the question of whether platforms should be fully or partially exempt from media obligations. He also detailed the provisions contained in the 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation concerning quality journalism and fact-checkers, as well as its articulation with the DSA.

Marisa Jimenez Martin, Director of Public Policy and Deputy Head of EU Affairs at Facebook, thanked the organizers and participants for this dialogue between regulators and private players. She mentioned the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online, to which Facebook had subscribed with the European Commission in 2016, and recalled the platform's point of view on EMFA provisions.

Anita Malenica, Member of the Council, AEM, Croatia, presented an AEM project launched in 2020 to promote quality journalism. The initiative is based on the allocation of a grant to journalists working on subjects of public interest.

- **Video sharing platforms**

Joanna Spiteri, Chief Executive, BA, Malta, moderated the panel.

Pedro Ruivo, Compliance Supervisor, ERC, Portugal, gave a presentation on the video-sharing platform situation in the country. He presented the law transposing the AVMS Directive into Portuguese law. He stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation for the application of the directive in the European Union. Finally, he discussed the situation of Portugal's three video-sharing platforms.

Charis Tsigou, Legal Advisor, NCRTV, Greece, described the situation in Greece. She reviewed the main features of the AVMS Directive, in particular the country-of-origin principle. She detailed Greek legislation on video-sharing platforms and the role of the regulator, noting that there were no video-sharing platforms established in Greece at this stage.

Lukasz Gabler, Manager for Central Eastern Europe, TikTok, demonstrated how TikTok complied with the provisions of the AVMS Directive, particularly those concerning the protection of young people.

- **Life of the network**

- **Incoming Vice-Presidency:** the CTR of Armenia was unanimously elected Vice-President of the network.

Friday 29 September 2023

- **UNESCO Guidelines**

Ana Cristina Ruelas, Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists at UNESCO, discussed the process of drawing up the "Guidelines for regulating digital platforms ", as well as the global conference "Internet for Trust" held at the institution's headquarters in February 2023. After three open consultations, the final version of these principles should be published at the end of October 2023. She also mentioned the creation of a global space for dialogue, including networks ("network of networks"), to enable greater collaboration between the various players in the implementation of these guidelines.

Monica Duran, Executive Secretary of the Ibero-American platform of Audiovisual regulators (PRAI), presented the platform to participants, and reiterated its support for the guidelines and the "network of networks".

Frédéric Bokobza, Presidency of the Francophone Network of Media Regulators (REFRAM), spoke of the participation of REFRAM and Arcom in the drafting of the guidelines, recalling that the topic of digital platform regulation had been on the agenda of the REFRAM presidents' conference in November 2022, and the initiative taken to issue a network declaration. He also reiterated his support for the guidelines and the "network of networks".

Josip Popovac, President of the Council and Director of the Agency, AEM, Croatia, and Giacomo Lasorella, President, ERGA, renewed their support for these two UNESCO initiatives.

- **Working groups “gender and media” and “media literacy”**

Monica Duran, International Relations, CAC, Andalusia, Spain, presented the study carried out in 2022 by the Gender and Media working group on the representation of women in news magazines and audiovisual sports programs in the Mediterranean area. Future work will focus on the presence and representation of women in daily news programs.

Sanja Pancic, International Affairs, AEM, Croatia, proposed that the Media Education working group continue its work by organizing regular online meetings, as well as one face-to-face meeting a year to encourage exchanges between members.

Jeton Mehmeti, Chairman, IMC, Kosovo, presented his institution's activities in the field of media education in Kosovo. He stressed the importance of adapting these activities to the country's context, and detailed several specific actions, notably in schools.

Joanna Spiteri, Chief Executive, BA, Malta, presented an assessment carried out by her institution on the presence of men and women in televised debates, particularly debates on current affairs in Malta. The regulator has therefore drawn up guidelines to encourage better representation of women on television.

- **Presentation of Professor George Pleios, NCRTV, Greece, on “Prohibited Content”**

Prof. Georges Pleios reviewed the evolution of the definition of what constitutes "prohibited content" over the ages, and the current debates surrounding the notion, both societal and legislative.

Record of decisions (II)

- **Incoming Vice-Presidency:** the CTR of Armenia, led by Tigran Hakobyan, President of the CTR, was elected Vice-President of the network. The next MNRA Plenary Assembly will be held in Armenia in autumn 2024.