

***Steering Committee on
Media and Information Society
(CDMSI)***



1st Meeting - 27 to 30 March 2012 (Strasbourg, Agora, Room G03)

**Meeting report
CDMSI(2012)004Rev
(25/5/2012)**

1 & 2. Opening of the meeting – adoption of the agenda

1. Gender distribution of the 78 attendants in the meeting: 33 women (42%), 45 men (58%).
2. The CDMSI adopted the agenda and the order of business (Appendix I).
3. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe addressed the Committee and held an exchange of views with its members (Appendix II).
4. Jan Kleijssen, Director of Information Society and Action Against Crime, in the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, informed the steering committee of various Committee of Ministers' decisions, including the adoption of the Internet Governance Strategy. He also provided information on administrative matters, on arrangements within the Secretariat to support CDMSI work and on budgetary matters.

3. Elections

5. The CDMSI elected its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and members of the Bureau as follows:

Chairperson: Andris Mellakauls (Latvia) for a first one-year term

Vice-Chairperson: Maja Rakovic (Serbia) for a first one-year term

Bureau: Mark Carvell (United Kingdom), Garegin Chugaszyan (Armenia), Emir Powlakic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Thomas Schneider (Switzerland) and Bissera Zankova (Bulgaria), all for a first two-year term.

The resulting gender distribution is: 2 women (29%) / 5 men (71%).

6. The CDMSI also designated Christina Lamprou (Greece) as Gender Equality Rapporteur.

7. The CDMSI delegated, until its next meeting, the designation of representatives for meetings of other steering committees and relevant events to the Bureau.

4. Decisions of the Committee of Ministers

8. The CDMSI took note of various Committee of Ministers decisions, in particular on:

- Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods
- Terms of reference of the CDMSI
- Internet Governance – Council of Europe Strategy 2012-2015

9. It also took note of the organisation of Committee of Ministers thematic debates on freedom of the media (December 2011 and January 2012) and related decisions and on the safety of journalists (March 2012)

10. The CDMSI welcomed the Committee of Ministers adoption of the Declaration and Recommendation on Public Service Media Governance (16 February 2012) and the state of play (GR- H consideration and expected adoption on 4 April) in respect of the draft recommendations on the protection of human rights with regard respectively to social networking services and search engines, as well as the decision to postpone examination of the draft declaration on the desirability of international standards dealing with forum shopping in respect of defamation or (“libel tourism”).

5. Exchange of views on cooperation with the European Union

11. The item was postponed to a later meeting due the unavailability of the expected participants. Nonetheless, Mrs Marietje Schaake, MEP (Rapporteur on A Digital Freedom Strategy in EU Foreign Policy) provided a video-recorded message to the CDMSI which congratulated the Council of Europe for the adoption of the Internet governance strategy and stressed the desirability for future co-operation.

12. Delegations discussed co-ordination between the Council of Europe and the EU in respect of activities involving competence-related issues. Member states expressed strong support for a more active role of the Secretariat in ensuring closer co-ordination with the European Commission through existing consultation mechanism. Furthermore, several delegations expressed the necessity for a better co-operation with the European Commission at the working level. The representative of the Commission and those member States of the Committee, that are also members of the European Union, were invited to reflect upon possible “early warning systems” in respect of projects on which the CDMSI is working (or plans to work on), which might give rise to concern as regards the question of EU-competences.

13. Some delegations raised the question whether identical competence issues arise in respect of different types of instruments, according to their binding (conventions), non-binding (recommendations) and political (declarations) nature.

6. Workshop on Internet Governance

14. The CDMSI held a workshop on Internet governance animated by DIPLO Foundation (Jovan Kurbalija, Vladimir Radunovic, Alex Sceberras Trigona, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malta).

7. Council of Europe Internet Governance Strategy 2012-2015

15. The CDMSI held an exchange of views with Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi (TC-INF) on the Strategy which is among the priorities of the Council of Europe and constitutes a mandate for the CDMSI to proceed with that area of work. Mr Hajnoczi emphasised the broad scope of the Strategy and its people centred nature, expressed support to EuroDIG and paid tribute to member States that actively supported it since its inception.

16. The CDMSI also discussed with the Secretariat the activities in their respective sectors that have a bearing on the Strategy:

- Lee Hibbard, Coordinator for the Information Society and Internet Governance,
- Alexander Seger, Head of the Data Protection and Cybercrime Division (Convention Committee on Cybercrime – T-CY),
- Thorsten Afflebach, Head of the Social Cohesion and Integration Division (European Committee for Social Cohesion – CDCS),
- Kathrin Merkle, Head of Cultural Policy, Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue Division (Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape CDCPP),
- Gioia Scappucci, Secretary of the Lanzarote Committee (Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse “Lanzarote convention” - T-ES),
- Sophie Kwasny, Secretary of the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal data [STE n°108] - T-PD,
- Albina Ovcearenco, co-Secretary of the CODEXTER (Committee of Experts on Terrorism - CODEXTER).

17. The CDMSI has a general oversight role as regards the Strategy. The Information Society and Internet Governance Coordinator in the Secretariat (Lee Hibbard) will prepare a chart to follow developments concerning the Strategy and regularly submit it to the CDMSI; this will be the basis for the CDMSI to oversee implementation of the Strategy as set out in its terms of reference and report to the Committee of Ministers accordingly. As implementation commences, the CDMSI wished to define its role more precisely.

8. Pan-European and broader cooperation

European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG - Stockholm, 14-15 June 2012)

18. The Secretariat and the delegations involved in the organisation of EuroDIG informed the CDMSI on its upcoming 5th edition (Stockholm on 14-15 June 2012).

19. The representative of the European Commission informed the CDMSI about a pre-EuroDIG event being organising with some national IGFs.

Internet Governance Forum

20. The delegate from Azerbaijan informed the CDMSI about the organisation of the upcoming IGF (Baku, 6 to 9 November 2012).

Relevant cooperation and field activities

21. The Secretariat informed the CDMSI about on-going cooperation activities in the field of media and freedom of expression. There were three major projects underway, two of which were joint programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Union: one concerning Ukraine (2008-2012) and the other concerning the South Caucasus region (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and Moldova (2011-2012). These activities targeted media professionals as well as national authorities in respect of Council of Europe standards. A third project, funded by voluntary contributions of Ireland and Norway, aimed at promoting professionalism and tolerance in the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2012-2013).

22. In respect of future cooperation activities, negotiations were underway with the EU concerning a new project on freedom of expression and media freedom in Ukraine (2013-2016). Several other projects were also under preparation. A project on journalism education in Azerbaijan (2013-2015), possibly to be funded by Norway, had been prepared. Furthermore, projects concerning freedom of expression and freedom of the media in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Montenegro and Serbia (2013-2014) had been developed and funding was expected from SIDA (Sweden). Finally, the Secretariat referred to a project on providing support to a regional network of media self-regulatory bodies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine (2013-2015). Also this project was expected to be funded by SIDA (Sweden).

Activities in neighbouring regions

23. In 2011, the Media Division implemented together with the Venice Commission an election assistance project for Tunisia and had submitted a project proposal for such assistance to Jordan with a substantial media component.

9. Standard setting on Information Society and Internet Governance

Follow-up to specific instruments on the Internet adopted by the Committee of Ministers - Declaration on Internet Governance principles

- *Recommendation on the protection and promotion of the universality, integrity and openness of the Internet*

- *Declaration on network neutrality*

24. The Secretariat gave an overview of the content of these instruments and overall processes of their development and provided information to contextualise follow-up work in the broader Internet governance landscape as well as the implementation of the Internet governance strategy.

25. Member states representatives and other participants echoed the recognition by various stakeholders of the value added of these instruments in Internet governance dialogues at the global level. Ensuing discussions focused on questions of ensuring multi-stakeholder support for these instruments as well as the nature of possible future documents.

26. It was noted that due to budgetary constraints it was not possible to create a subordinate group to pursue follow-up work. While many CDMSI members expressed regret in this respect, it was agreed that an informal working group with CDMSI members be established. CDMSI members will discuss by e-mail exchange concrete issues and follow-up proposals.

Compilation of existing rights for Internet users

27. The CDMSI took note of various initiatives in different international fora and Internet communities on an enhanced understanding of rights of Internet users, as well as the importance accorder to this work in the Internet governance strategy and also by the Secretary General.

28. The CDMSI agreed on draft terms of reference for a Committee of Experts on Rights of Internet Users (MC-RIU¹) and to submit them to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. The Bureau will make a proposal for the MC-RIU's composition in light of suggestions made by CDMSI members by e-mail by 16 April. The CDMSI emphasised the importance of being able to rapidly start the work.

Drafting of an instrument on cross-border flow of Internet traffic

29. The CDMSI noted the connection between this work and the Reykjavik Ministerial conference (May 2009) and also the work of the former Ad-hoc Advisory Group on Cross-border Internet (MC-S-CI).

30. Discussions focused on the specific issues to be covered. It was noted that due to budgetary constraints the creation of a subordinate group was not possible. The CDMSI will consider output in respect of cross-border flow of Internet traffic in light of a preliminary report identifying concrete problems / scenarios to be prepared on the basis of submissions by members and observers or participants. A small group (Thomas Schneider - Switzerland, Michael Rottert – EuroISPA, and Nigel Hickson ICANN) will synthesize the various contributions and outline proposals for CDMSI consideration.

¹ Following Council of Europe practice, the acronym should be MSI-RIU (showing its link to the CDMSI)

10. Standard setting on media

I. Compendium of Council of Europe standards in the field of media freedom, including with regard to hate speech

31. The CDMSI noted that the European Audiovisual Observatory (on its Internet site) has made available to the general public a systematic collection of all texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in the field of freedom of expression including a short summary for each of the texts. That work, which the Observatory intends to update from time to time, responds at least in part to the Committee of Ministers request for a compendium of Council of Europe standards in the field of media freedom, including with regard to hate speech. The CDMSI will give further consideration to this matter at its 2nd meeting, in November 2012.

ii. Initiatives to strengthen the protection of journalists, other media professionals and bloggers, both as regards preventive measures and effective investigation, taking into account the work conducted by other international organisations, and to foster ethical journalism

Committee of Ministers thematic debates on Media freedom (December 2011 and January 2010) and on safety of journalists (March 2012)

32. The CDMSI welcomed the opportunity to participate in or attend those debates while regretting not to have been associated to their preparation at an early stage. The CDMSI Vice-Chairperson, Maja Rakovic reported on the debate on safety of journalists. In addition, the CDMSI held an exchange of views with Philippe Boillat, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, who outlined the main concrete actions requested by member state delegations.

33. The CDMSI agreed to work on the safety of journalists; the Secretariat will make arrangements for an informal working / drafting group and to submit in due course concrete proposals to the Committee of Ministers.

iii. Draft convention on broadcasters' neighbouring rights

34. The CDMSI noted possible promising developments in WIPO and also that the European Commission has to date not received a negotiating mandate. It agreed to put this matter on hold and reconsider it at the next meeting.

iv. Draft recommendation on gender equality and media

35. The CDMSI agreed to complete with the help of an informal drafting group a recommendation on gender equality and media which had been prepared under the authority of the CDMC. Subject to confirmation by the persons involved, the group should consist of Thordis Elva Thorvaldsdottir (Iceland), Bissera Zankova (Bulgaria), Els Hendrix (Germany), Catherine Souyri-Desrosiers (France), Jerker Stattin (Sweden) and coordinated by the Gender Equality Rapporteur, Christina Lamprou (Greece).

v. Gender equality dimension in the media coverage of election campaigns

36. The CDMSI asked the Secretariat to prepare an outline of a possible instrument on this subject as well as background material concerning the gender dimension of media coverage of election campaigns

vi. Proposals to the Committee of Ministers on follow-up to specific media-related instruments adopted by the Committee of Ministers (e.g. in respect of public service media, public service value of the Internet, or a new notion of media)

37. The CDMSI agreed to put this matter on hold, and to reconsider it in light of possible submissions by delegations and also in the context of the next specialised Ministerial Conference.

vii. Contribution from a media and freedom of expression perspective to Council of Europe work addressing the problem of libel tourism

38. The CDMSI took note of the decision of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H) to postpone the adoption of the Declaration on the desirability of international standards dealing with forum shopping in respect of defamation or ("libel tourism") which had been prepared by the CDMC. It decided to put further work on this subject on hold awaiting further developments. Nonetheless, it underlined the importance of the matter and expressed concern about the risks libel tourism poses to freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

11. Implementation of CM Declaration of 13 January

Dialogue with the Secretariat of relevant Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms

Improved collection and sharing of information and enhanced coordination on freedom of expression media freedom (thematic debate / yearly reporting)

Developing a toolkit of assistance measures in the field of media freedom which could be made available upon request to member States and neighbouring countries

Strengthening the impact and visibility of Council of Europe activities in the field of media freedom – promoting knowledge and effective implementation of these standards in member States, including among and with the media

39. The CDMSI held exchanges with Stefanos Stavros, Executive Secretary to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Anne Weber, Advisor, Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights, Lawrence Early, fourth section Registrar and Michelle Lafferty, registry lawyer at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights.

The CDMSI agreed to assist with intergovernmental expert input into the implementation of the Committee of Ministers Declaration of 13 January 2010 by

(i) responding to requests for information or questionnaires which may be submitted to CDMSI members by the Secretariat;

(ii) encouraging media and journalists professional organisations and civil society organisations that participate in CDMSI work to provide relevant information to the Secretariat;

(iii) inviting various Council of Europe bodies and institutions, with full respect to their independence and in conformity with their mandates, to address issues relating to

freedom of expression, freedom of the media and safety of journalists and to take active part in an inter-secretariat task force contributing to the implementation of the Declaration.

12. Standard-setting on protection of personal data

Dialogue with representatives of the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD) and of the CDCJ

Information concerning the instruments currently reviewed by the T-PD:

Convention 108

data protection and employment

data protection and the police

40. The CDMSI held an exchange of views with Catherine Pozzo di Borgo, Vice-Chairperson of the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regards to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD) and took note of the expected activities and output of the T-PD.

13. 1st Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society (Serbia, 2013)

41. The CDMSI agreed that the Conference should take place in the second half of 2013. It welcomed the background papers prepared by a number of delegations (Armenia, Austria, France, Latvia, Switzerland). The Secretariat will prepare first tentative draft Conference documents based on the discussions.

14. Other tasks stemming from Resolution CM/Res(2011)24

42. No further issues were discussed under this item.

15. Working methods

i. Prioritisation of activities (with reference to items 4, ii) and iii) and items 7 to 13 of the agenda), iii) Resolution CM/Res(2011)24, iv); Regular contacts with CM TC-INF, v); Multi-stakeholder dialogue

43. The CDMSI expressed concern about the scarce resources made available for its work, in particular as regards subordinate structures, especially in view of the priority attached by the Organisation to this area of work.

44. It agreed to follow the approach already adopted by the CDMC and certain of its subordinate groups, namely that relevant work streams be discussed with, and draft texts opened to consultation and discussion by, interested stakeholders and in multistakeholder platforms or fora. It took note of the Secretary General's encouragement that CDMSI members themselves take the Committee's work to multistakeholder fora for discussion.

45. The Steering Committee endorsed the CDMC proposal to associate to CDMSI work previous CDMC and subordinate bodies' observers and the Secretariat's approach to invite to the meeting organisations that broadly met CDMC criteria for observer status. This includes, in particular, the invitation to the Internet Society, represented by Markus Kummer, to take part in CDMSI work. It was recalled that the Internet Society is the institutional home of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF - the Internet's main technical standard developing body with broad technical and geographic representation).

46. The CDMSI welcomed broad participation of civil society and professional organisations' representatives in the meeting and agreed that basic rules about participation in its work be made available to stakeholders (relevance, representativeness, ability to make a contribution to CDMSI work) by publishing them on the Committee's web page, and that a list of participants and observers be drawn up regularly. The Bureau was invited to take decisions between meetings concerning participation, without prejudice to submitting the matter for discussion and decision by the CDMSI in appropriate cases.

ii. Gender Equality Rapporteur

47. See paragraph 6 above.

16. Other information of interest to the CDMSI

Other Council of Europe activities relevant to the work of the CDMSI

Programme lines and budget

Progress review report

Monitoring mechanisms and procedures

Relevant activities of other international organisations with a view to avoiding duplication and achieving synergies

48. The CDMSI agreed to delegate to its Bureau decisions regarding its representation to various meetings and events to which it may be invited.

17. Other business

i) Draft Committee of Ministers declaration on risks to fundamental rights stemming from digital tracking and other surveillance technologies

49. The CDMSI examined this draft Declaration tabled by Latvia. It agreed to certain amendments and decided that members should have three weeks after receiving the revised version to consult with relevant authorities and submit comments and proposals . If there is consensus to pursue with this draft, the resulting text should be submitted to the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regards to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD) and European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) and possibly also to the Convention Committee on Cybercrime (T-CY) and the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) for possible comments. The CDMSI will then consider any responses received and, after further consultation, the draft could be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption; in the absence of

consensus during online consultations, the matter could be reconsidered at the 2nd CDMSI meeting, in November 2012.

ii) Next meetings

50. The Bureau agreed to hold its 1st meeting before the summer break its 2nd meeting a few weeks before the 2nd CDMSI meeting (all dates to be confirmed).

18. Adoption of abridged meeting report

51. A draft was approved by the members present at that point of the meeting. However, due to lack of quorum, formal adoption of the draft abridged report was processed by written procedure.



Appendix I

Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

**1st Meeting - 27 to 30 March 2012 (Strasbourg, Agora, Room G03)
CDMSI/OJ(2012)1Rev**

Draft Agenda

Order of Business		
	Morning	Afternoon
27 March	Items 1, 2, 4, 5 and 3 (end of morning)	Items 6
28 March	7, 8, 9	12, 13
29 March	10, 11	14, 15
30 March	16, 17	Finalisation of pending items, 18

1. Opening of the meeting

Statement by and exchange with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Elections

Chair
Vice-Chair
Bureau (five members)
Gender Equality Rapporteur

4. Decisions of the Committee of Ministers

- i. Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods
- ii. Terms of Reference
- iii. Programme of Activities
- iv. Thematic debate on Freedom of the Media and related decisions (December 2011 and January 2012)
- v. Internet Governance – Council of Europe Strategy 2012-2015
- vi. Declaration and Recommendation on Public Service Media Governance
- vii. Recommendation on the protection of human rights with regard to social networking services
- viii.** Recommendation on the protection of human rights with regard to search engines
- ix. Declaration on the desirability of international standards dealing with forum shopping in respect of defamation or ("libel tourism)

5. Exchange of views on cooperation with the European Union

Ambassador Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Head of the European Delegation to the Council of Europe

Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Chairperson of the European Commission mandated High-Level Group on Media Freedom and Pluralism

Marietje Schaake, MEP (Rapporteur on A Digital Freedom Strategy in EU Foreign Policy)

6. Workshop on Internet Governance by DIPLO Foundation

7. Council of Europe Internet Governance Strategy 2012-2015

Information by the Secretariat

8. Pan-European cooperation and broader cooperation

- i. European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG - Stockholm, 14-15 June 2012)
- ii. Internet Governance Forum (Baku, Autumn 2012)
- iii. Activities in neighbouring regions

9. Standard setting on information society and internet governance

- i. Follow-up to specific instruments on the Internet adopted by the Committee of Ministers
- ii. Compilation of existing rights for Internet users
- iii. Drafting of an instrument on cross-border flow of Internet traffic

10. Standard setting on media

- i. Compendium of Council of Europe standards in the field of media freedom, including with regard to hate speech
- ii. Initiatives to strengthen the protection of journalists, other media professionals and bloggers, both as regards preventive measures and effective investigation, taking into account the work conducted by other international organisations, and to foster ethical journalism
- iii. Draft convention on broadcasters' neighbouring rights
- iv. Draft recommendation on gender equality and media
- v. Gender equality dimension in the media coverage of election campaigns
- vi. Proposals to the Committee of Ministers on follow-up to specific media-related instruments adopted by the Committee of Ministers (e.g. in respect of public service media, public service value of the Internet, or a new notion of media)
- vii. Contribution from a media and freedom of expression perspective to Council of Europe work addressing the problem of libel tourism

11. Implementation of CM Declaration of 13 January 2010

- i. *Exchange of views with the Secretariat of relevant Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms*
- ii. Improved collection and sharing of information and enhanced coordination on freedom of expression media freedom (thematic debate / yearly reporting)

- iii. Developing a toolkit of assistance measures in the field of media freedom which could be made available upon request to member States and neighbouring countries
- iv. Strengthening the impact and visibility of Council of Europe activities in the field of media freedom – promoting knowledge and effective implementation of these standards in member States, including among and with the media

12. Standard setting on protection of personal data

- i. Exchange of views with representatives of the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (T-PD) and the Secretariat of the CDCJ
- ii. Information concerning the instruments currently reviewed by the T-PD :
 - Convention 108
 - Rec (89)2 data protection and employment
 - Rec (87)15 data protection and the police

13. 1st Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society (Serbia, 2013)

14. Other tasks stemming from Resolution CM/Res(2011)24

- i. Advise to the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on the priorities, relevance and other matters with regard to CDMSI activities, having regard to the priorities and criteria adopted by the Committee of Ministers

15. Working methods

- i. Prioritisation of activities (with reference to items 4, ii) and iii) and items 7 to 13 of the agenda)
- ii. Gender Equality Rapporteur
- iii. Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods
- iv. Regular contacts with CM TC-INF
- v. Multi-stakeholder dialogue, permitting to interact with different stakeholder groups, at different stages of the tasks assigned to the CDMSI

16. Other information of interest to the CDMSI

- i. Other Council of Europe activities relevant to the work of the CDMSI
- ii. Programme lines and budget
- iii. Progress review report
- iv. Monitoring mechanisms and procedures
- v. Relevant cooperation and field activities
- vi. Relevant activities of other international organisations with a view to avoiding duplication and achieving synergies

17. Other business

18. Adoption of abridged meeting report

Appendix II

**Speaking notes for the Secretary General
Opening of Steering Committee on the Media and Information Society
Tuesday 27 March 2012
(Room G03, Agora)**

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to address this first meeting of a brand new Council of Europe steering committee.

What you do is of huge importance. Your mandate brings together some of the issues which I see as key priorities for the Council of Europe in the years to come.

Firstly, you are the Steering Committee responsible for the media, and therefore for the freedom of expression, which is not only a fundamental freedom itself, but also a precondition for freedom.

Let me turn now to the substance of the work that the Committee of Ministers has entrusted you with and, in the first place, underline the importance that both the Committee of Ministers and myself, as Secretary General of the Council of Europe, attach to it.

The importance of this work was underlined repeatedly during the Committee of Ministers thematic debate on freedom of the media and was reflected in the Deputies' related decisions. The Committee of Ministers will hold a separate debate this week on the safety of journalists.

Your terms of reference cover five distinct areas:

The first area is Information society and Internet governance, including overseeing the implementation of the Organisation's Internet Governance Strategy (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 March).

Significant parts of the Strategy fall under your direct competence. Your focus will be freedom of expression and the right to impart and receive information regardless of frontiers. I am particularly attached to your expected output of a compilation of existing rights for Internet users.

The second area concerns standard-setting in the media field. In addition to the terms of reference, you should be attentive to Committee of Ministers decisions that have called on you to look into the question of the protection of journalists.

Closely linked to this is the third area which involves providing intergovernmental expert input into the improved collection and sharing of information and enhanced co-

ordination within the secretariat on freedom of expression and freedom of the media in member states. I attach great importance to this.

The fourth area relates to the protection of personal data and the right to private life in the Information society. You will, in close co-operation with other competent Council of Europe bodies, finalise draft instruments prepared by the Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data (T-PD). The task is of great importance given the ongoing modernisation process of Convention 108 and the central role privacy plays as facilitator of freedom of expression, participation and democratic citizenship.

Last but certainly not least, the fifth area involves the preparation of the next, or rather "first", Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society. I am grateful to Serbia for volunteering to host this conference. The aim should be to identify gaps and propose additional Council of Europe work in order to ensure that our core values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – are fully upheld in future in the Information society regardless of technological developments.

They are considerable challenges but, seeing the achievements of your predecessor committee, I am sure that you will be up to the task.

Given limited resources, you will therefore have, on the one hand, to prioritise, and on the other hand, to explore different ways of operating to ensure that the pace is not lost. Your home administrations should acknowledge your actual contribution to Council of Europe work and ensure that you can invest the necessary time back in your capitals and workstations to keep this important work going. I also encourage you to consider possibilities for making voluntary contributions or otherwise support the Committee's activities (Examples: Austria, Switzerland in respect of information Society work and events; Sweden, Spain and Serbia hosting EuroDIG; Finland in respect of neighbouring rights², etc) Secondments may also be possible.

Let me conclude by referring to another key aspect of your work: multi-stakeholder dialogue, permitting you to interact with different stakeholder groups at relevant times during your work. In a situation of scarcity of resources, you will have to assume yourself part of the burden for this dialogue, not only by bringing other stakeholders to your table, but also by taking your CDMSI discussions into other fora.

There should be no misunderstanding. Multistakeholder dialogue and processes does not mean passing on the burden or responsibility. Governments are the legitimate representatives of the people of their countries and remain accountable, in particular, in respect of their commitments under international law.

Thank you for your attention.

² Like copyright in respect of the electronic signal of broadcasters

Appendix III

**1ST MEETING OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION SOCIETY (CDMSI)
27 – 30 MARCH 2012, ROOM G03 (AGORA)**

**1ERE REUNION DU
COMITE DIRECTEUR SUR LES MEDIAS ET LA SOCIETE DE L'INFORMATION (CDMSI)
27 – 30 MARS 2012, SALLE G03 (AGORA)**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

ALBANIA/ALBANIE

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Press adviser of Albanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

ARMENIA/ARMENIE

Mr Garegin Chugaszyan

Executive Director, IT Foundation,

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE

Mr Matthias Traimer

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Ms Jeyran Amiraslanova

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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

Mr Emir Povlakic

Head of Division for Licensing, Digitalization and Coordination in Broadcasting, Communications Regulatory

BULGARIA/BULGARIE

Ms Nelly Stoyanova

Media Expert / Consultant, Ministry of Transport, IT and Communications

CROATIA/CROATIE

Ms Jasminka Draženović

The Ministry of the Culture of the Republic of Croatia

Ms Anja Jelavić

Agency for Electronic Media of the Republic of Croatia

CYPRUS/CHYPRE

Mr Andreas Christodoulou

Senior Press and Information Officer, Ministry of Interior

DENMARK/DANEMARK

Ms Katja Just Maarbjerg
Head of Section, Danish Ministry of Culture

ESTONIA/ESTONIE

Mr Peeter Sookruus
Head of Media Department, Ministry of Culture

FINLAND/FINLANDE

Mr Juuso Moisander
Commercial Secretary, Information Society and ICT, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

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Ms Sophie Verrier
Bureau des affaires europeennes et internationales, Direction Generale des Medias et des Industries Culturelles, Ministere de la Culture et de la Communication
Ms Catherine Souyri
Chargée de mission pour la communication, Commission nationale française pour l'UNESCO

GEORGIA/GEORGIE

Ms Tamar Kintsurashvili
General Director of Public Broadcasting

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Ms Els Hendrix
Referat K 31, Internationale Zusammenarbeit im Medienbereich; Rundfunk, International Media Cooperation, Der Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien
Mr Wolfgang Wohnas
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