

Terms of reference of the Group of Specialists on public service media in the information society (MC-S-PSM)

1.	Name of committee:	Group of Specialists on public service media in the information society (MC-S-PSM)
2.	Type of committee:	Ad Hoc Advisory Group
3.	Source of terms of reference:	Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC)
4.	Terms of reference:	
		<p>Having regard to:</p> <p>the Political Declaration, Resolutions and Action Plan, adopted at the 7th European Ministerial Conference on Mass Media Policy (Kyiv, March 2005), incorporated as an integral part into the Action Plan of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe.</p> <p>Under the authority of the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC), and in relation with the implementation of Project 2004/DG2/40 “Standard-setting and policy assistance on topical issues concerning the media”, the Group is instructed to:</p>
	i.	gather information on how member states ensure the legal, financial, technical and other appropriate conditions required to enable public service media to discharge their remit in the information society in the light of relevant Council of Europe standards, and prepare a compendium of best practices with a view to its broad dissemination (cf. item 15 of the Kyiv Action Plan);
	ii.	prepare a compendium of best practices of public service media as regards promoting a wider democratic participation of individuals, inter alia with the help of new interactive technologies (cf. item 21 of the Kyiv Action Plan);
	iii.	prepare a report on the contribution of public service media in the information society in increasing the transparency of public authorities and facilitating their scrutiny, having regard to the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendations Nos. R (81) 19 on access to information held by public authorities and Rec(2002)2 on access to official documents and to ongoing discussions concerning a binding Council of Europe instrument and other developments in this field; the report and any further action proposed (e.g. in the form of draft standard-setting instruments) should also address the issue of transparency and accountability of public service media themselves (cf. item 22 of the Kyiv Action Plan);
	iv.	prepare a report on the contribution of public service media to the implementation of the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation No. R (97) 21 on media and the promotion of a culture of tolerance, examining, inter alia, how public service media can play a part in promoting social cohesion and integrating all communities and

	generations, and propose, if appropriate, further action on this subject (cf. item 13 of the Kyiv Action Plan).
	<p>In doing so, the MC-S-PSM will take into account the existing Council of Europe texts regarding public service media and the results of the work of the MM-S-DB relating to public service broadcasting in a digital environment, as well as work under way on the same issues in other international forums. The MC-S-PSM will also take into account the ongoing work of the Ad hoc Committee on e-democracy (CAHDE) with a view to possible co-operation.</p> <p>Upon request by the CDMC, the MC-S-PSM shall provide advice and assistance to the CDMC and/or its subordinate bodies on the issues related to the regulation and practices in the field of public service media in the information society and carry out any ad hoc assignments given to it by the CDMC.</p>
5.	Composition of the Group:
5.A	Members
	<p>The Group shall be composed of 12 specialists with expertise in the field of public service media, in particular in the above-mentioned issues, to be appointed by the governments of the following member states: Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, United Kingdom.</p> <p>The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one specialist from each of the above countries for attendance at meetings of the Group.</p> <p>Other member states expressing an interest in the work of the Group may designate, at their own expense, specialists to participate in meetings of the Group.</p>
5.B	Participants
i.	The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may send a representative/representatives to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote and at the charge of its administrative budget.
ii.	The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe may send a representative/representatives to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote and at the charge of its administrative budget.
iii.	The European Audiovisual Observatory may send a representative to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote and at the charge of its administrative budget.
iv.	The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe may send a representative/representatives to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote and at the charge of the sending body.
5.C	Other participants

i.	The European Commission may send a representative/representatives to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.
ii.	States with observer status with the Council of Europe (Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America) may send a representative/representatives to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.
5.D	Observers
	The following non-governmental organisations may send a representative/representatives to meetings of the Group, without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 19; - Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT); - European Association for the Viewers Interests (EAVI); - European Broadcasting Union (EBU); - European Federation of Journalists (EFJ).
6.	Working Structures and Methods:
	The MC-S-PSM shall undertake the necessary research and consultations with relevant parties. Where necessary, and in order to accelerate progress in its work, the MC-S-PSM may organise hearings and/or colloquies, within the limits of its budget.
7.	Duration:
	These terms of reference will expire on 31 December 2008.