

Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Type of committee: Steering Committee

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015**

Main tasks
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDMSI oversees the Council of Europe's work in the field of media, information society and data protection, and advises the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its area of competence, focusing on human rights protection and promotion, taking due account of relevant transversal perspectives and of the activities of other international organisations. For this purpose, the CDMSI is instructed to facilitate co-operation among the Council of Europe member States and assist them in the development of common policies, as well as fulfil any other activity which might be assigned to it by the Committee of Ministers. In particular, the CDMSI will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) oversee the implementation of a Council of Europe Internet Governance Strategy, focusing on the right to freedom of expression on the Internet and the right to impart and receive information regardless of frontiers;(ii) develop co-operation at pan-European level, extend this co-operation to its neighbouring regions and engage other relevant stakeholders, preparing instruments with a view to promoting and protecting human rights, the rule of law and pluralist democracy in the Information Society and Internet Governance;(iii) review, consolidate and update existing instruments and conduct, where necessary, additional standard-setting work in respect of freedom of the media, paying due attention to professional journalism standards, supporting independence, pluralism and diversity in the media, including public service media;(iv) contribute to the implementation of the Committee of Ministers' Declaration of 13 January 2010 on measures to promote the respect of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights;(v) co-ordinate standard-setting work in respect of the protection of personal data and the right to private life, in close association with other relevant Council of Europe bodies (e.g. CAHDATA, T-PD, CDCJ);(vi) ensure follow-up to Committee of Ministers decisions taken in light of Resolutions adopted at the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society (Belgrade, Serbia, 7 and 8 November 2013).(vii) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility¹, in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers.
Pillar/Sector/Programme
<p>Pillar: Rule of Law Sector: Common standards and policies Programme: Information Society and Internet Governance</p>
Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The Council of Europe contributes to enhancing human rights aspects of Internet Governance; to

¹ Cf. list of Conventions in Appendix 1.

this end draft texts are prepared and submitted to the Committee of Ministers having regard to the Council of Europe Internet Governance Strategy adopted by the Committee of Ministers on:

- a. Network neutrality;
 - b. Internet freedom;
 - c. Cross border-flow of Internet traffic.
- (ii) A new Internet Governance Strategy 2015-2019 of the Council of Europe is prepared and submitted to the Committee of Ministers.
- (iii) Media freedom and pluralism are promoted and better protected; to this end draft texts are prepared and submitted to the Committee of Ministers on:
- a. the protection of journalism and safety of journalists;
 - b. professional and ethical journalism;
 - c. media pluralism and transparency of media ownership;
 - d. gender equality dimension in the media coverage of election campaigns (in consultation with the Council of Europe GEC and UN Women).
- (iv) A report is prepared on the implementation of CM Declaration of 13 January 2010, including proposals for follow-up.
- (v) Personal data and the right to private life are better protected in the Information society; to this end the CDMSI offers, in consultation with the T-PD, CDCJ and CAHDATA, an intergovernmental setting of 47 for the finalisation and submission to the Committee of Ministers of draft texts on:
- a. data protection and employment;
 - b. data protection and the police;
 - c. biometric data;
 - d. data protection and children.

The CDMSI also contributes to the modernisation process of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (ETS No. 108).

Composition

Members:

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank in the relevant fields (media policy and freedom of expression, information society and Internet governance, data protection).

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member state (two in the case of the state whose representative has been elected Chair).

Member States may send other representatives without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

Participants:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER);
- European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ);
- Consultative Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to automatic

- processing of personal data (T-PD);
- Ad Hoc Committee on Data Protection (CAHDATA);
 - other Council of Europe intergovernmental committees as appropriate.
 - European Audiovisual Observatory;
 - Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
 - European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights – FRA);
 - Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
 - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
 - Organization of American States (OAS);
 - UN agencies (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - UNESCO);
 - International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN);
 - Civil society and representatives of business, technical, professional and academic communities.

Observers:

- The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:
- Belarus.

Working methods

Plenary meetings:

- 48 members, 2 meetings in 2014, 3 days
 48 members, 2 meetings in 2015, 3 days

Bureau:

- 7 members, 2 meetings in 2014, 2 days
 7 members, 2 meetings in 2015, 2 days

The Committee will also appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur from amongst its members.

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Budgetary information*

2014

Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €	Bureau €	Subordinate structures/ Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2	3	48	137 000	21 000	-	3 A ; 3 B

2015

Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €	Bureau €	Subordinate structures/ Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2	3	48	137 000	21 000	-	3 A ; 3 B

*The costs presented above take into consideration the per diem, travel, interpretation, translation and document printing. Costs calculated on the basis of the per diem and recharged services costs at their 2014 level.

CDMSI	
27	European Agreement concerning Programme Exchanges by means of Television Films
34	European Agreement on the Protection of Television Broadcasts
53	European Agreement for the Prevention of Broadcasts transmitted from Stations outside National Territories
108	Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data
131	Third Additional Protocol to the Protocol to the European Agreement on the Protection of Television Broadcasts
132	European Convention on Transfrontier Television
153	European Convention relating to questions on Copyright Law and Neighbouring Rights in the Framework of Transfrontier Broadcasting by Satellite
178	European Convention on the Legal Protection of Services based on, or consisting of, Conditional Access
181	Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows