

26th Meeting of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

4 - 6 December 2024

Draft meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the [Steering Committee on Media and Information Society \(CDMSI\)](#), Ms Maja Zarić (Serbia), welcomed the members, participants and observers to the 26th Plenary meeting, held in Strasbourg on 4-6 December 2024. She then invited Irena Guidikova, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department at the [Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity](#) , to deliver her welcoming remarks.

Ms Guidikova expressed appreciation for the CDMSI's efforts during politically challenging times, highlighting the relevance of ongoing initiatives to reinforce democracy and human rights. She underscored the need for collaboration and synergies across Council of Europe entities and emphasised the [Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists](#), welcoming the initiatives taken in member states and the important events held under its aegis. She also commended the work on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), particularly its inclusive approach, involving effective co-ordination with the European Union, and partnership with civil society. Stressing the importance of raising awareness to ensure effective implementation at the national level, she praised the work already carried out in this respect, including to develop relevant training for legal professionals and civil society actors.

She also provided information on work of interest to the CDMSI conducted within the department, notably by the [Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape \(CDCPP\)](#), and the [Steering Committee on Democracy \(CDDEM\)](#), and emphasised the importance of result-based methodologies and reporting by member States to ensure that the CDMSI's work has measurable impacts on the ground.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The CDMSI adopted the meeting agenda (Appendix 1). The list of participants and information on gender distribution appear in Appendix 2.

3. Council of Europe ‘Journalists matter’ [Campaign for the Safety of Journalists](#)

Rodica Ciochina, Campaign manager, presented developments regarding the ‘[Journalists Matter](#)’ [Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists](#). Launched in October 2023, the *Journalists Matter* Campaign counts 39 (out of 46) appointed National Focal Points, 23 national committees or dialogue forums to coordinate initiatives, 15 out of which created under the Campaign, and 8 countries implementing national action plans. The Secretariat informed also on significant progress reported during the [Second meeting of the National Focal Points](#) (20-21 June, Strasbourg, France), where participants discussed domestic initiatives, challenges in stakeholder engagement, and trust-building efforts between journalists and public authorities.

Other key activities in 2024 included the [Seminar: The Role of the Police in the Protection of the Safety of Journalists \(26-27 September, Strasbourg, France\)](#), emphasising collaboration between law enforcement and media, and the [Annual Thematic Conference: Protection of Journalists - a multistakeholder dialogue \(29-30 October, Strasbourg, France\)](#), which focused on addressing harassment, digital threats, and protections for vulnerable journalists. The Conference showcased best practices in several member States.

Addressing next steps, CDMSI members were informed that the Campaign will pivot to its “Prosecution” pillar of the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2016\)4](#) on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors, in 2025, with planned events to deepen collaboration on safeguarding journalists and prosecuting crimes against them. In this context, the Secretariat provided information on next year’s Annual thematic conference: “Effective Prosecution of crimes against journalists - Building the paradigm against impunity” (29 April, Luxembourg), organised under the Presidency of Luxembourg and of the third meeting of the National Focal Points (30 April, Luxembourg).

CDMSI members held a tour de table to share information on the diverse actions prompted by the Campaign and planned steps. Key highlights included: Portugal’s upcoming 2025 Action Plan for Journalists Safety under the Media Action plan, which will bring together relevant stakeholders and entities; Norway’s envisaged adoption of a National Strategy for an informed public discourse, including safety of journalists’ measures; Latvia’s finalisation of a comprehensive Action Plan, featuring resilience training and collaboration with the Ukrainian Embassy on war journalist’ safety. Greece organised journalists’ protection training programs, including for the law enforcement, within the International Training Center for the Safety of Journalists & Media Professionals. Slovenia launched a public platform to support journalists facing attacks, enhanced dialogue with law enforcement, and offered legal tools and support to affected journalists. Ukraine reported about the critical wartime risks for journalists, and recalled the adoption of a National Action Plan under the Campaign. Italy has been promoting awareness raising initiatives and is organising safety training for crisis areas. The United Kingdom already has a national Action Plan, with a dedicated Committee working on its implementation. Luxembourg is also planning to adopt an Action Plan and invited CDMSI members to engage in the next Journalists Matter annual Thematic Conference, scheduled for 29 April in Luxembourg. Serbia strengthened legal protections and increased funding for journalist safety projects. Cyprus is promoting journalist safety initiatives in collaboration with media outlets. Lithuania is implementing its 2023–2025 Action Plan for the safety of journalists, offering scholarships to media professionals and exploring law enforcement-related initiatives inspired by the Role of the Police seminar held in Strasbourg in autumn as part of the Campaign.

4. Exchange of views with Michael O'Flaherty, Council of Europe [Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

The Commissioner expressed gratitude for the invitation by the CDMSI and emphasised the importance of establishing an ongoing dialogue between relevant institutions. Acknowledging the CDMSI's broad mandate, he commended its work on advancing standards on freedom of expression.

The Commissioner outlined his role as an independent official serving a 6-year mandate, tasked with supporting the Council of Europe and member States in upholding human rights. He noted important issues of common concern under his mandate and that of the CDMSI. Firstly, on media freedom and safety of journalists, the Commissioner congratulated the CDMSI for breathing life to [CM/Rec\(2016\)4](#) and for having demonstrated strong policy engagement. He expressed appreciation for the 'Journalists matter' Campaign and the collaboration with the Platform for the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists. Reaffirming the importance of standing up for media freedom, he assured the committee of his support and collaboration. He also stressed the importance of maintaining a gender-sensitive approach, particularly in addressing online threats and harassment targeting women journalists.

The Commissioner expressed great appreciation for the establishment of expert committees on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Online Safety. While actively advocating for the Council of Europe [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence](#) and human rights, democracy and the rule of law, he emphasised the need to continuously assess AI's potential and risks, investing in in-depth research on the area. He also noted that developments related to the future deployment of Artificial General Intelligence will also require deliberations to determine the Council of Europe approach to the matter.

The Commissioner underscored the urgent need to address disinformation, which, in his view, should be tackled as a human rights issue. He indicated that his future efforts in this area will build on the CDMSI [2023 Guidance Note on countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation through fact-checking and platform design solutions in a human rights compliant manner](#), with a focus on promoting fact-checking, enhancing platform design solutions, and empowering communities to build resilience.

During the subsequent exchange of views the following issues were addressed: emerging trends affecting freedom of expression and the CDMSI's role in tackling several key challenges, such as technology-driven threats to freedom of expression; the adequacy of the European Convention on Human Rights in responding to evolving digital changes; the impact of SLAPPs on critical voices beyond journalists, including NGOs, activists and associations; growing concerns over attacks on public service media; the influence of Generative AI on newsroom content production and consumption; the necessity to counter disinformation, particularly during electoral processes.

5. [Freedom of Expression in 2023, Report on trends in freedom of expression in Council of Europe member states](#)

Cesare Pitea, CDMSI Secretariat, introduced the "[Freedom of Expression in 2023: Report on trends in freedom of expression in Council of Europe member states](#)". He underlined that it is the continuation of an established practice, whereby a summary report on the state of freedom of expression is prepared for the division by a consultant. The current report covers the year 2023 and compiles pertinent data, information and conclusions from Council of Europe bodies and mechanisms and other reliable governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental sources. It aims at discerning overarching

trends in freedom of expression in Europe, to provide a basis to the Organisation's and member states' action on priorities and areas of intervention.

Peter Noorlander, Independent Consultant and Startup Director, Reporters Shield, and author of the Report, underlined the continuity in the methodology and approach of this report with the established practice. The Report provides information organised around four areas: legal guarantees for freedom of expression; safety of journalists and others who speak up; independent and pluralistic media environment; reliability and trust in information. It is based on indicators derived from Council of Europe standards.

The author of the report summarised its main findings that underline:

- the continuing concern for safety of journalists and other public watchdogs;
- the decline in pluralism of media and their editorial independence as a result of the combined effect of political, commercial and financial pressure and the phenomenon of “news deserts”;
- the declining trust in media and the growing importance of non-professional sources of information on social media for younger generations;
- the spread of disinformation and propaganda, significantly facilitated by artificial intelligence systems – based technology.

Overall, the data show the interlocked nature of the various threats to media freedom and point to the need to approach them systematically.

On the positive trends, the report highlights the ‘Journalists Matter’ campaign, the development of new standards on countering strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) by the Council of Europe and the European Union, the enduring value of independent public service media as a trusted source of information for citizens, the increase in ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS No. 205), also known as the [Tromsø Convention](#), and the finalisation of the European Media Freedom Act at the European Union level.

CDMSI members took note of the Report, expressed appreciation for the work done by the consultant and, in this context, noted the importance of the synergy between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the field of media freedom.

6. Exchange of views with Judge Arnfinn Bårdsen, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights

The CDMSI engaged in an exchange with Judge Arnfinn Bårdsen, Vice-President of the [European Court of Human Rights](#) (ECtHR), regarding the link between democracy and freedom of speech. Judge Bårdsen highlighted that while new, platform-based, media has the potential to significantly enhance freedom of expression and civic participation, it has also contributed to the rise of concerning developments. The ECtHR has produced extensive case-law on the use of and protection of rights on the internet under Article 10 of the [European Convention on Human Rights](#). At the same time, the rapid evolution of technology presents unforeseen challenges that carry the potential for undermining the core values of democracy.

He focused on four main areas of concern. Firstly, he recalled the inherent balance in European democracies between the majority rule and the protection of minorities, stressing that hate speech and intolerance erode democratic values and human dignity and fall outside the protection provided under Article 10. Secondly, he stressed the vital role of plural, independent, and reliable journalism, warning

that both established traditional media and media operating on online platforms face pressure from vested interest, with the latter often lacking journalistic ethics. Thirdly, he addressed the impact of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in elections, particularly their role in manipulating public opinion and amplifying disinformation. Judge Bårdsen emphasised the urgent need for regulatory frameworks to address these challenges. Finally, he discussed the increasing difficulty in discerning trustful information in the massive stream of information online, leaving individuals vulnerable to manipulation. In this context, he noted that beyond its watchdog role, the media serves at ensuring that society retains its collective memory through digital archives.

During the exchange held with the CDMSI members, Judge Bårdsen emphasised the importance for the ECtHR to maintain an open dialogue with other Council of Europe bodies and institutions and its member States to be up to date with the intergovernmental work on new societal issues, the latest standard-setting instruments and other useful resources. He addressed the mechanism of the Third Party Intervention avenue, the formalised collaboration with other similar regional judicial bodies such as the [Inter-American Court of Human Rights](#) and the [African Court on Human and People's Rights](#). Moreover, he referred to the importance of freedom of expression in the context of electoral processes and the Court's role in dealing with related potential cases of abuse, while at the same time pointing to the principle of subsidiarity, as a cornerstone of the Convention system.

7. Standard-setting. Expert committees of the CDMSI – work progress

- [Committee of Experts online safety and empowerment of content creators and users \(MSI-eSEC\)](#)

Cesare Pitea, Secretary to the MSI-eSEC, updated the CDMSI on the outcome of the second MSI-eSEC meeting, held on 24-25 September 2024. At the meeting the Committee discussed a working outline and advanced drafting elements, prepared by the drafting co-rapporteurs, which had been the object of two round of written comments. He further reported on the work timeline agreed by the Committee. The final draft of the deliverable is due to the CDMSI for approval by the end of 2025. A full draft of the future Recommendation, as well as a first draft of the explanatory memorandum, will be presented to the CDMSI for comments and endorsement ahead of its 27th meeting. Subject to the agreement of the CDMSI, the draft recommendation will be made open to public consultation.

Nicole Stellou (Greece), Chair of MSI-eSEC informed that, according to the existing practice, the MSI-eSEC decided to complement the future draft recommendation with an explanatory memorandum, reiterated the systemic approach to safety based on risks and refined its discussion on definitions and scope, focusing on the meaning of empowerment of users and content creators, as well as platforms, for the purposes of the future instrument.

Martin Husovec, drafting co-rapporteur, presented the main lines of the preliminary document. He emphasised the dual added value of the deliverable, aiming at providing guidance for an online environment which is safe and trustworthy for all users, including content creators. On the one hand, the deliverable will systematise and develop guiding principles for states and other actors to ensure online safety and accountability; these will be based on existing standards and trends, as well as on lessons learnt from and gaps noted in recent related legislative initiatives. On the other, it will single out empowerment of users as a key factor for safety, offering empowerment tools for users and content creators, aiming at ensuring accessibility, transparency of information. It will also address procedural rights and opportunities of personalisation of the online experience, including through content moderation and recommender systems.

CDMSI members expressed support for the work, particularly the inclusion of public channels on messaging applications within the scope and the expansion of personalisation of recommenders' systems; they inquired about tailoring measures for risks and harms based on the size and impact of targeted services. They welcomed clarification on the timeline and emphasised the importance of coherence with existing European Union regulations.

The third meeting of the MSI-eSEC will be held in Paris on 27-28 March 2025.

- [Committee of Experts on the Implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression \(MSI-AI\)](#)

Giulia Lucchese, Secretary to the MSI-AI, informed about the outcome of the second meeting of the Experts Committee, held in Strasbourg on 17-18 October 2024. She informed that members discussed on the basis of a comprehensive working document submitted by the drafting co-rapporteurs, containing preliminary elements of the future draft Guidance Note. The discussion on the potential for including supporting materials, such as appendices, was still ongoing and several ideas had been advanced by MSI-AI members to facilitate the understanding of a highly technical issue. CDMSI members were reminded about the process for adoption of the future Guidance Note and took note of the clarification provided by the Secretary regarding changes in terminology of the future deliverable: "Guidance note" instead of "Guidelines" to clearly mark the distinction with Council of Europe's recommendations (that contain Guidelines); and, in the English version, "implications" rather than "impacts", to better respond to the scope of the future instrument and align the translation with the French version of the [Terms of Reference of the MSI-AI](#).

Andrin Eichin (Switzerland), Chair of MSI-AI, provided an update on the progress of the draft Guidance Note, underlining the challenges involved in the development of such complex subject. He noted that given the rapidly evolving nature of the topic, the ambition will be to elaborate an instrument which is both concrete and implementable while making accessible a high level of technicality. He informed about discussions on its scope, the decision to include a working definition of generative AI reflecting its multi-modal nature and addressing its implications on freedom of expression on the basis of the three core elements framed within Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, namely the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas. Several pressing challenges were identified by the MSI-AI, including the proliferation of deepfakes across various modalities; spoofing attempts, including the fabrication of websites that mimic trusted news outlets and governmental entities; the potential of generative AI for influencing the formation of opinions. The MSI-AI opted for a technology-neutral approach to ensure broad applicability.

Iva Nenadic, drafting co-rapporteur, elaborated further the implications of Generative AI for freedom of expression, highlighting both the amplification of known risks and challenges as well as potentials benefits. She stressed the significant threat to the survival of media and creative industries, exacerbating unresolved issues deriving from the discussion on digital platforms. One major concern is the increasing fragmentation of audiences, leading to a shift toward an "audience of one". To structure the analysis effectively, a layered approach was applied, examining the three core dimensions of freedom of expression across the three layers of Generative AI's lifecycle. She noted that responses must be multifaceted, forward-looking, and adaptable to future developments.

CDMSI Members welcomed the presentations and broadly endorsed the approach taken by the MSI-AI. They supported launching public consultations on the draft Guidance Note, should the text reach sufficient maturity by the next CDMSI Plenary meeting. Members engaged in discussions and shared

concerns regarding media plurality, the issue of market concentration, and the accessibility of diverse sources.

The third meeting of the MSI-AI will take place in Paris on 25-26 March 2025.

8. Follow-up to the CDMSI's previous work

The Secretariat provided update on follow-up to [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2024\)2 on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation \(SLAPPs\)](#), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 5 April 2024. CDMSI members were informed about the outcome of the [second European Anti-SLAPP Conference](#), held in Strasbourg on 14 November 2024. The Conference was co-organised with the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE) and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) and gathered participants from diverse sectors to examine early steps in implementing the Council of Europe Recommendation, as well as standards adopted at the EU level. It welcomed interventions from governmental authorities from Albania, Croatia, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia and United Kingdom and brought together nearly 300 participants, including several representatives of civil society organizations.

CDMSI members were also informed about the ongoing dialogue and cooperation with relevant EU counterparts, as well as efforts to raise-awareness and contribute to training initiatives for key stakeholders. Updates were provided on participation in past and future major events, such as the 19th UN Internet Governance Forum 2024, and the RightsCon Summit 2025.

Information were provided also regarding the follow-up to Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on combating hate speech, including the publication of the [Compilation of promising practices on combating hate speech at national level](#) and of the self-assessment tool. Further steps were outlined regarding the organisation of a CDMSI workshop in the framework of next year's No Hate Speech Week.

Thomas Schneider (Switzerland), CDMSI Bureau member and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) provided information on the follow-up to the [Declaration of Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on the World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\) +20 review and the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#). The Declaration, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 25 September 2024, reaffirms the importance of strengthening a multistakeholder and inclusive model of Internet governance and supports the extension of the IGF mandate until 2035. It calls on stakeholders to actively engage in its work and contribute financially to ensure its long-term stability. CDMSI members were also informed about the next IGF, which will be hosted in Norway in June 2025.

9. Council of Europe [World Forum for Democracy](#) (Democracy and Diversity – Can We Transcend the Divides?), 6-8 November 2024

Irena Guidikova provided an overview of the annual Council of Europe [World Forum for Democracy](#), held since 2012 and created as an opportunity for the Organisation to engage with global stakeholders involved in democracy. The focus of the 12th Forum held in 2024 was on diversity, with discussions centred on elections, societal divides, and disinformation. A significant concern was placed on the issues surrounding social media, increasingly viewed as a primary source of societal division and misinformation. The Forum also addressed the impact of disinformation in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, with 170 speakers from various backgrounds and sectors.

A key conclusion of the Forum discussions was that countering disinformation requires strengthening the role of public service media and strengthening the critical thinking of the public through media and information literacy initiatives.

10. Standard setting. Further deliverables under CDMSI Terms of Reference - work progress

- Indicators for media and information literacy (MIL) strategies at national level

The Secretariat introduced the work undertaken in developing guidelines that will help member States strengthen the capacities of their citizens to navigate the increasingly complex information landscape. The need to address challenges such as fake news, hate speech, media ownership concentration, disinformation with holistic solutions, including media and information literacy (MIL) education, was emphasised.

Nicoleta Fotiade, Media Literacy Educator & Trainer, Associated to Mediawise Society and International Association for Media Education, consultant for this deliverable, presented the ongoing work intending to provide a structured approach for countries looking to implement MIL. She emphasized the long-standing need for MIL, citing grassroots efforts to raise awareness and individual initiatives. She called for long-term approaches, stressing the MIL should be integrated into both formal and non-formal education systems. Ms Fotiade also discussed the reality of media education, noting that there is no clear career path in this field, nor a widely recognized profession, which hinders the faster integration of media literacy into national education systems. She also pointed out that practicing critical thinking should start as early as possible in a person's education.

The CDMSI members addressed issues regarding the timeline for the deliverable and highlighted the need for collaboration with key stakeholders. They underlined the importance of the cultural context and the critical factor of political will and funding. Members then shared examples of ongoing initiatives, such as the establishment of national coordination teams and the integration of MIL in education systems. CDMSI members also took note that the Secretariat would circulate a questionnaire to gather data from member States on existing initiatives, challenges faced at the national level, and involved stakeholders.

The CDMSI also took note and expressed support for the “[EDMO Guidelines for Effective Media Literacy Initiatives](#)” developed by the [EDMO \(European Digital Media Observatory\)](#) with extensive input from members of the EDMO hubs, media literacy experts, and practitioners from different countries,.

- Ten steps to counter disinformation - Strategy and practical tools based on existing Council of Europe standards and other instruments.

The Secretariat provided information on the developments in the preparation of the deliverable “Ten steps to counter disinformation - Strategy and practical tools based on existing Council of Europe standards and other instruments”. A clarification on the scope and terminology was provided, as the future text will cover measures to ensure information integrity beyond restrictive measures against disinformation and will not be limited to countering the intentional dissemination of deceiving information. The Secretariat also illustrated the structure and content of the questionnaire prepared to collect feedback from member states, tentatively by the end of January 2025, including information on existing frameworks and practices countering disinformation in a human-rights compliant manner and highlighting challenges, lessons learned and promising practices that can be replicable and scalable. The follow up steps were clarified.

The CDMSI members took note of the information provided and of the proposed questionnaire.

11. Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe

11.1 Exchange of views with Roberto Fasino, Secretary to the PACE [Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)

In the exchange held with Roberto Fasino, Secretary to the [PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#) (ASCULT), the Committee was informed about the Resolution on the [Risks and opportunities of the metaverse](#) and related [report](#), and the [Resolution on Propaganda and freedom of information in Europe and related report](#). Mr Fasino recalled the formerly adopted [Recommendation](#) and [Resolution](#) based on the [Report Guaranteeing media freedom and the safety of journalists: an obligation of member States](#) and the [Recommendation](#) and a [Resolution](#) on Countering SLAPPs: An Imperative for a Democratic Society. He mentioned the Joint public hearing with the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States on [SLAPPs as a threat to media pluralism and measures implemented to counteract them](#) and stressed how the work of the Committee benefitted from the consultations with CDMSI on these topics and that the institutional cooperation between PACE and CDMSI can lead and reinforce the standards produced by both bodies.

CDMSI members were informed about the upcoming reports on Media concentration and threats to media pluralism and independence, for which cooperation with the [Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists](#) was helpful, as well as a pending report on [Journalists matter: the need to step up efforts to liberate Ukrainian journalists held in captivity by the Russian Federation](#). A further report on Freedom of expression, media and sports will be part of the work next year. Mr Fasino confirmed the Committee's strong support to the 'Journalists Matter' Campaign, including through the work on the General Rapporteur on media freedom and safety of journalists.

11.2 Exchange of views with Guillem Cano-Palomares, Secretariat of the PACE [Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights](#)

Guillem Cano-Palomares provided an overview of the work carried by the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee of the PACE with respect to freedom of expression related topics. A series of reports have been adopted by the Committee, such as the one on the [Situation of Human rights defenders and whistle blowers in Europe](#). The Committee was also involved and provided support to the entry into force of the AI Framework Convention.

Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, PACE General Rapporteur for political prisoners, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, presented the Resolution on [The detention and conviction of Julian Assange and their chilling effects on human rights](#) and related [report](#), which express serious concerns about the implications of Julian Assange's prosecution for press freedom. The PACE recognised the case as setting a worrying precedent for media freedom, particularly regarding the proportionality of the charges and the possible deterrent effect on investigative journalism. The Resolution also underscores the risk that such cases may be used as justification by authoritarian regimes to suppress press freedoms.

12. Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the [European Audiovisual Observatory \(EAO\)](#) and of the [European Platform of Regulatory Authorities \(EPRA\)](#)

Representatives from the Secretariat of the European Audiovisual Observatory, Susanne Nikoltchev, Executive Director, and Maja Cappello, Head of Legal Information Department, and, Emmanuelle Machet, Head of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) Secretariat, provided insights into key developments in the audiovisual sector, focusing on legislative frameworks, emerging challenges, and regulatory considerations. Their presentations covered developments related to the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), involving various issues such as parental controls, age verification, and media literacy, with an emphasis on safeguarding minors in the digital space.

The discussion extended to the role of video gaming in education and the protection of minors, as well as to the influence of unregulated areas such as social media influencers, and related concerns. The evolving responsibilities of media providers were also explored, particularly in relation to editorial responsibility, content curation, and the regulation of customized server-side advertising in the emerging sector of Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television (FAST) channels.

A key focus was the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the audiovisual sector, specifically regarding copyright issues arising from the EU AI Act, data protection concerns related to servers located outside the EU, and legal exceptions on data mining. The presentation also addressed the broader influence of AI on labour rights, the spread of disinformation, and the social rights of artists in the industry.

13. Pompidou Group – [Policy paper on strategies and regulatory options aimed at reducing risks and harms related to online gaming and online gambling](#)

Elena Hedoux, Secretariat of the Council of Europe International Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group), presented the [Policy paper on strategies and regulatory options aimed at reducing risks and harms related to online gaming and online gambling](#), adopted by the Pompidou Group member states on 30 May 2024. The report focuses on raising public awareness, harm reduction, ways to involve industry, elements to put in place to curb the phenomenon, international governmental cooperation, examples of regulatory options that countries may adopt.

CDMSI members were informed of the envisaged consultation of the CDMSI on a future recommendation of the Pompidou Group on online gaming and online gambling.

Following an exchange, CDMSI members were invited to provide comments on the Policy Paper and its topic. The draft of the future Recommendation will be presented to the CDMSI for consultation ahead of its next Plenary meeting, prior to its submission to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

14. Council of Europe [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law](#)

Thomas Schneider, vice-Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI), presented developments regarding the follow-up to the [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law](#), which was adopted on 17 May 2024 by the Committee

of Ministers, and opened for signature on the occasion of the Conference of Ministers of Justice in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 5 September 2024.

He notably provided information on the HUDERIA Methodology, a new Council of Europe tool providing guidance and a structured approach to carry out risk and impact assessments for Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems. The HUDERIA Methodology was adopted by the CAI at its 12th plenary meeting in November 2024. It will be complemented in 2025 by the HUDERIA Model, which will provide supporting materials and resources, including flexible tools and scalable recommendations for risk and impact assessment of AI systems.

The CDMSI members exchanged about the scope of application of the impact assessment tool and measures to be taken at the national level to ensure effective implementation.

15. Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence ([CDDH](#))

David Milner, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division, and Secretary to the [Steering Committee on Human Rights \(CDDH\)](#), presented the ongoing work in the preparation of a Handbook on Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence. He noted that the mandate of the [Drafting Group on Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence \(CDDH-IA\)](#) was broad. The group had been instructed with developing a general guidance instrument for entities and individuals connected to public administration. The instrument, expected before the end of 2025, is aimed for Council of Europe member states, therefore a narrow audience than that of the AI Framework Convention, open to non-member states.

CDMSI members were also informed that the CDDH-AI is engaged in exchanges of views with independent experts and representatives from various Council of Europe (CoE) committees, including the [Committee of Experts on the Implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression \(MSI-AI\)](#).

16. [Gender Equality and AI](#)

Caterina Bolognese, Head of Gender Equality division, presented the background, context and objectives of the work carried out by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC). She introduced the [Gender equality strategy 2024-2029](#), adopted on 6 March 2024, which places a strong emphasis on intersectionality and serves as a reference, in this regard, for any Council of Europe body developing new standards. The strategy highlights the increasing influence of information and communication technologies (ICT), particularly artificial intelligence (AI), in both advancing and challenging gender equality. A key focus is placed on AI's role in shaping gender dynamics, with particular attention to technology-facilitated violence against women (VaW) and the need for greater involvement of men and boys in gender equality policies. One of the strategy's primary objectives is to combat gender stereotypes and sexism, recognizing the critical role of media and social media in both perpetuating and challenging these issues.

Ms Bolognese provided updates on ongoing work within the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination ([GEC/ADI-AI](#)), jointly established by GEC and CDADI, and the Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls ([GEC/PC-eVIO](#)).

17. Elections

After information by the Secretariat on applicable rules and procedure, the CDMSI members elected, in a secret ballot:

- **Maja Zarić** (Serbia) as CDMSI Chair for another one-year term;
- **Taavo Lumiste** (Estonia) as CDMSI Vice-Chair for another one-year term;
- **Aikaterini Polyzou** (Greece) as member of the CDMSI Bureau for a two-year mandate.

18. Council of Europe [Cooperation activities on freedom of expression](#)

Alina Tatarenko, Head of [Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression](#), presented an overview of the cooperation activities in 2024. She informed about the Division's work, which includes implementation of projects in 20 countries, providing policy advice, legal opinions, developing training programmes and organising events aimed at fostering public debate on freedom of expression across the member States. Most recently, the Division developed a [Training Programme to Counter SLAPPs](#), based on the [Council of Europe Recommendation](#) CM/Rec(2024)2 and the [EU Directive 2024/1069](#). Other training programmes on safety of journalists, on access to information, and on combatting hate speech are being updated, and a **Guide on Limiting the Use of Criminal Law to Restrict the Freedom of Expression** is being finalised. The Division also organised a Forum Talk on the role of media in countering disinformation at the World Forum for Democracy and the ["Vilnius Dialogue" Conference on Fostering the Culture of Public Debate on Freedom of Expression in Europe](#).

The Division's plans for 2025 include continuing implementation of current projects, organising trainings to counter SLAPPs, and to promote access to information for media. It will organise awareness-raising events on countering disinformation across Europe, a session for regulators and online platforms during the [EuroDIG](#) Conference and will start new projects in Albania and to support exiled journalists from Belarus.

In an exchange with CDMSI members, Ms Tatarenko emphasised the importance of cooperation with CDMSI and invited the Committee members to participate actively in cooperation activities. The [Annual Report](#) highlighting main activities in 2024 is available on the Division's website. The Division can be contacted at foe.cooperation@coe.int for any assistance requests and proposals.

19. [Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists](#) - systemic alerts

Adrian Evtuhovici, Head of Division/ Co-ordinator of the [Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists](#), provided an overview of the Platform's operations and recent developments. Marking the 10th anniversary of the mechanism's establishment, he noted that nearly 2000 cases have been reported through it. He informed that several changes were operated to the way in which the platform functions, as a result of the dialogue with the [Group of Friends of the Council of Europe on the Safety of Journalists and Media Freedom](#) addressing concerns that member States lacked clarity on how to respond to alerts and the procedures for closing them.

A new category of "deleted alerts" was introduced, to exclude cases where doubts existed regarding their relevance to freedom of expression, ensuring increased statistical accuracy of reported incidents. Additionally, a new "other" category was created for classifying the source of threats, particularly

relevant for cases arising in occupied territories, where discussions on categorization remain ongoing. The revised procedure now includes a three-month waiting period before designating an alert as unanswered.

CDMSI was also informed that, to enhance the Platform's ability to identify structural issues affecting press freedom, a new category of "systemic alerts" was introduced, requiring the endorsement of five partner organizations to be triggered.

20. Feasibility study on immersive reality applications and their implications for freedom of expression

Brittan Heller, International Law, Technology, Human Rights expert and external consultant, provided an overview of the work progress on a feasibility study on immersive reality applications and their implications for freedom of expression.

Building on the Council of Europe and IEEE's report on [The Metaverse and its Impact on Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Democracy](#), the study aims to address the adequacy of existing protections under existing Council of Europe standards, and to identify whether existing safeguards are sufficient and appropriate to ensure due respect of human rights and rule of law in immersive realities. The study will explore the implications of extended reality (XR) technologies, including virtual, augmented, and mixed reality, for freedom of expression under European human rights frameworks. The study will assess whether there is a need to update legal and governance frameworks, particularly to explore better the implications and applicability of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to address the hybrid nature of expression and behaviour in XR environments and related challenges.

CDMSI members agreed to provide inputs and comments on the study, which will then be integrated in the draft. A revised version will be presented to the CDMSI at its next meeting in June 2025. The outcome of the study may set the path for a future deliverable on Freedom of expression in XR.

21. Council of Europe future legal mechanism to support European drama series production, under [CDCPP](#) authority

Terje Birkrem Hovland, Chair of the Council of Europe [Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage, and Landscape \(CDCPP\)](#), provided an update on developments regarding the Council of Europe's forthcoming legal mechanism to support the production of European drama series, and welcomed the CDMSI's involvement and input in the process. .

During the discussion, CDMSI members underscored the importance of ensuring comprehensive consultation with public broadcasters and other key stakeholders, who often play a crucial role in supporting independent producers. The value of greater CDMSI involvement in similar initiatives was highlighted. The CDCPP Chair assured CDMSI members that the draft convention was the result of extensive dialogue with stakeholders and welcomed continued discussions to address outstanding concerns.

22. The State of Newsgathering in Today's Disinformed Society

The CDMSI hosted a focused session organized by representatives of the [News Media Coalition](#). Presentations were delivered by Andrew Moger, Chief Executive Officer, News Media Coalition, John Battle, King's Counsel (Hons), Head of Legal and Compliance at Independent Television News (ITN) and former chair of the Media Lawyers Association, Deborah Bonetti, Director of the Foreign Press

Association and correspondent of Italian daily newspaper Il Giorno, Alexandru Giboi, General Secretary of the European Alliance of News Agencies and former General Director and President at the Romanian national news agency Agerpress, and Robert Heslop, Public Affairs Specialist of the NMC including the European Publishers Council.

Panellists discussed the critical role of safeguarding journalism in a society increasingly affected by mistrust in information. The session emphasised the challenges faced by journalists and news organisations in maintaining and rebuilding trust and delivering accurate news in a complex and evolving media landscape. They also stressed the growing challenges for women journalists and the need for better support and recognition of their work. Interventions covered also successful initiatives to improve transparency and collaboration between the judiciary and the media, including protocols facilitating information sharing from courts to journalists, as well as trainings for journalist operating in conflict areas.

The CDMSI members further exchanged on matters pertaining to journalist safety, social platforms' influence, and the training of young journalists.

23. Intervention by Matjaž Gruden, Director, Directorate for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

The Director shared insights on the data collected through the Platform for the Protection of Journalism and the Safety of Journalists and emerging trends concerning threats against journalists across Europe, and stressed the critical role of the CDMSI in addressing these challenges from the standard setting perspective. He highlighted two key aspects where the CDMSI plays an essential role: first, in developing meaningful multilateral policy responses, and second, in upholding the positive obligations under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, ensuring that freedom of expression is exercised freely and that journalists can operate in a safe environment. The Director acknowledged the CDMSI's outstanding work, particularly in translating standards into guidance for concrete actions that effectively improve working conditions for the media.

Drawing on the CDCPP process and discussions on a future convention, he emphasized the need for increased coordination and cooperation through more frequent exchanges between intergovernmental committees and for actively seeking opportunities for collaboration. He further encouraged the highest possible level of coordination at all levels, including national, to ensure a coherent and effective approach in standard setting and other processes. In closing, he congratulated the CDMSI and the Secretariat on their achievements over the past year.

24. Recent country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression

The following CDMSI members presented recent country specific developments in the field of freedom of expression in written form:

Greece: Law No. 5005/2002 on “Strengthening of the publicity and transparency of print and electronic media” has established a Registry for Print Media (MET) as well as a Registry for Electronic Media (MHT). Although the registration to the above Registries is not mandatory for print and electronic media respectively, it constitutes a prerequisite for obtaining state advertising, under transparent, objective, proportionate and non-discriminatory criteria and procedures.

The second year of application of the Registry for Print and Electronic Media has changed the media landscape in Greece in terms of transparency of the ownership, with **398** print media (newspapers of

national coverage, regional newspapers and magazines) and **556** electronic media having received certification and meeting the requirements set out in law no. 5005/2022.

Latvia: Baltic MIL Day 2024: A Collaborative Front on Media Literacy and Information Resilience in Riga <https://bcme.eu/en/our-work/media-literacy/baltic-mil-day-2024>

On October 30, 2024, media literacy advocates, educators, and experts from across the Baltic region gathered in Riga for the Baltic Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Day. This event, organized by the Baltic Centre for Media Excellence, served as a critical platform for discussing challenges and strategies in fostering a media-literate society, resilient against disinformation and empowered through new digital skills. The event featured the "Resilient Baltics" project, highlighting community-based initiatives that engage diverse groups, from youth to seniors, in media literacy education. Sessions explored topics such as AI's impact on content creation, the mental health implications of digital media, and Latvia's counter-disinformation strategies. Baltic MIL Day concluded with a call for ongoing cross-border collaboration to foster a media-literate and resilient society.

Furthermore, in October, several media and information literacy (MIL) workshops, or "skills laboratories," for seniors were held in Latvia's Latgale region. The region was selected for its proximity to Russia and Belarus, as well as its significant minority population, making it particularly susceptible to disinformation and propaganda. These skills laboratories have garnered considerable attention in the Latvian public media and are part of the WP4.4 activities under the BECID ([Baltic Engagement Centre for Combating Information Disorders](#)) project, which aims to enhance information resilience among Russian-speaking populations across the Baltics.

Luxembourg: Luxembourg is currently reforming its national legislation on electronic media with the aim of establishing a modern, technology-neutral regulatory framework for electronic media. As part of this process, Luxembourg has organised a series of conferences, open to the general public, on multiple subjects: influencers and content creators; Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the media; freedom of expression faced with anonymity and incitement to hatred and violence; and disinformation (www.mediareform.lu). In addition, a bill introducing a right of access to information for journalists has been tabled with the aim of facilitating the work of the media. The bill also aims to bring the national legal framework into line with the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention).

The Act of 8 July 2024 amending the amended Act of 8 June 2004 on freedom of expression in the media introduces an online right of reply.

In addition, the Public Service Media will benefit from a new multi-year agreement 2024-2030 signed with the State. Among other things, the agreement commits the media to cover, with complete editorial independence, subjects relating to the natural and human environment and the challenges of the climate crisis, to promote balanced gender representation in its content, and to provide the greatest possible online accessibility for people with sensory impairments, to set up an auditors' council made up of members of the public, and to adhere to the criteria of the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI), an independent and transparent certification initiative developed by RSF to encourage and promote media that meet ethical and independent standards.

The Republic of Moldova: The Republic of Moldova signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence in September 2024 in Vilnius.

Also, several draft amendments to the legislation are in the process of elaboration and public consultation, given the need to align with European legislation. Among the amended/elaborated laws are the Audiovisual Media Services Code and the new Media Law.

The Audiovisual Council organized in September 2024, in collaboration with OFCOM from UK, an event attended by representatives of regulators from 10 countries in the region. The event offered the opportunity to exchange views and practices on the regulation of sensitive topics such as disinformation, hate speech or media literacy.

The Republic of Moldova has also launched the Media Ownership Monitor, which contains relevant data on the owners of media outlets in the country.

Portugal: in October 2024 the Government presented a holistic and broad [Media Action Plan](#), prepared in consultation with the media organizations. The plan addresses in a concrete way, in the short, medium and long term, the deep changes of the public information structure, which is affecting the sustainability of media outlets, the labour security of the workers and jeopardizes freedom of information, pluralism and freedom of expression. It foresees more than 30 measures articulated around 4 axes: updating regulation of the media sector in the light of the digital challenges and related European regulations; public service media; incentives for media sustainability; media literacy and countering disinformation. To prepare and coordinate the implementation of the Media Action Plan and prepare a National Plan for Media Literacy, a new public entity named “#PortugalMediaLab”, was created under the umbrella of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

25. Request for observer status by the Center for Countering Digital Hate ([CCDH](#))

The CDMSI took note of the information provided by Jonah Thompson, EU Policy Manager on the profile and activities of the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), organisation applying for observer status to the CDMSI. Due to quorum requirements (as stated in [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#)), and upon proposal by the Bureau members, the CDMSI agreed to determine the granting of observer status to the CCDH through a written procedure. The CDMSI subsequently agreed, through written procedure, to grant CCDH the status of observer.

26. Participation in past and future events of relevance for the CDMSI

Relevant information was provided by the Secretariat and CDMSI members.

27. Any other business - date and place of next meeting

The CDMSI agreed to hold its next plenary meeting on 18-20 June 2025, in the premises of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg.

The CDMSI adopted by written procedure the present meeting report.

Appendix 1

26th Meeting
4 - 6 December 2024
Palais de l'Europe, Room 6, Hybrid

DRAFT AGENDA

4 DECEMBER – *Morning session 09:30 - 12:30*

28. Opening of the meeting

Irena Guidikova, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

29. Adoption of the agenda

30. Council of Europe 'Journalists matter' [Campaign for the Safety of Journalists](#)

Progress report on most recent developments and forthcoming work, including outcome of

- [Seminar: The Role of the Police in the Protection of the Safety of Journalists \(26-27 September, Strasbourg, France\)](#)
- [Annual Thematic Conference: Protection of Journalists - a multistakeholder dialogue \(29-30 October, Strasbourg, France\)](#)

Steps taken by member states - Information by CDMSI members (*Tour de table*)
Future steps under the Campaign

For Information and discussion

10:40 - 11:10 Coffee break

31. Exchange of views with Michael O'Flaherty, Council of Europe [Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

32. [Freedom of Expression in 2023, Report on trends in freedom of expression in Council of Europe member states](#) prepared for the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department by Peter Noorlander, Independent Consultant and Startup Director, Reporters Shield

Lunch Break 12:30-14:00

Afternoon session 14:00 - 17:30

33. Exchange of views with Judge Arnfinn Bårdsen, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights

34. Standard-setting. Expert committees of the CDMSI – work progress

- [Committee of Experts online safety and empowerment of content creators and users \(MSI-eSEC\)](#)

Presentation by Nicole Stellou, Chair of MSI-eSEC
 Presentation by Martin Husovec, Drafting Co-rapporteur

- [Committee of Experts on the Implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression \(MSI-AI\)](#)

Presentation by Andrin Eichin, Chair of MSI-AI
 Presentation by Iva Nenadic, Drafting Co-rapporteur

For information and discussion

15:50 - 16:20 Coffee Break

35. Follow-up to the CDMSI's previous work

- Update on follow-up to [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2024\)2 on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation \(SLAPPs\)](#), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 5 April 2024
- Outcome of the [second European Anti-SLAPP Conference](#), Strasbourg, 14 November 2024
- Follow-up to the [Declaration of Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on the World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\) +20 review and the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#)

For information by Secretariat and CDMSI members and discussion

36. Council of Europe [World Forum for Democracy](#) (Democracy and Diversity – Can We Transcend the Divides?), 6-8 November 2024

Presentation by Irena Guidikova, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe

5 DECEMBER – *Morning session 09:30 - 12:30*

37. Standard setting. Further deliverables under CDMSI Terms of Reference - work progress

- Indicators for [media and information literacy \(MIL\)](#) strategies at national level
 Presentation by Nicoleta Fotiade, Media Literacy Educator & Trainer, Associated to Mediawise Society and International Association for Media Education
- Ten steps to counter [disinformation](#) - Strategy and practical tools based on existing Council of Europe standards and other instruments.

Presentation by the Secretariat and CDMSI members

For information and discussion

38. Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe

- 11.1 Exchange of views with Roberto Fasino, Secretary to the PACE [Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)

Resolution on the [Risks and opportunities of the metaverse](#) and related [report](#)
[Resolution on Propaganda and freedom of information in Europe and related report](#)
Upcoming report on public regulation of content moderation on social media

- 11.2 Exchange of views with Guillem Cano-Palomares, Secretariat of the PACE [Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights](#)

Resolution on [The detention and conviction of Julian Assange and their chilling effects on human rights](#) and related [report](#)

Presentation by Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, PACE General Rapporteur for political prisoners, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

For information and discussion

10:50 – 11:20 Coffee break

39. Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the [European Audiovisual Observatory](#) and of the [European Platform of Regulatory Authorities](#) (EPRA)

Information provided by Susanne Nikoltchev, Executive Director, and Maja Cappello, Head of Legal Information Department, European Audiovisual Observatory

Information provided by Emmanuelle Machet, Head of the EPRA Secretariat

For information and discussion

40. Pompidou Group – [Policy paper on strategies and regulatory options aimed at reducing risks and harms related to online gaming and online gambling](#)

Presentation by Elena Hedoux, Secretariat of the Council of Europe International Cooperation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group)

For information and discussion

Lunch Break 12:30-14:00

Afternoon session 14:00 - 17:30

41. Council of Europe [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law](#)

Presentation Thomas Schneider, vice-Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Ambassador, Director of International Affairs, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication, Federal Office of Communications OFCOM,

42. Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence ([CDDH](#))

Presentation by David Milner, Head of the Human Rights Intergovernmental Co-operation Division, Secretary to the CDDH

43. [Gender Equality and AI](#)

Presentation by Caterina Bolognese, Head of Gender Equality division

Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination ([GEC/ADI-AI](#))
Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls ([GEC/PC-eVIO](#))

For information and discussion

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break

44. Elections

For decision

- Election of CDMSI Chair
- Election of CDMSI Vice-chair
- Election of a CDMSI Bureau member

45. Council of Europe [Cooperation activities on freedom of expression](#)

Presentation by Alina Tatarenko, Head of Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression

For information and discussion

46. [Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists](#) - systemic alerts

Presentation by Adrian Evtuhovici, Head of Division/ Co-ordinator of the Platform for the Protection of Journalists, Council of Europe

47. Feasibility study on immersive reality applications and their implications for freedom of expression

Presentation by Brittan Heller, International Law, Technology, and Human Rights expert

6 DECEMBER – Morning session 09:30 - 12:30

48. Council of Europe future legal mechanism to support European drama series production, under [CDCPP](#) authority

Presentation by Terje Birkrem HOVLAND, CDCPP Chair

For information and discussion

49. The State of Newsgathering in Today's Disinformed Society

Focussed session by representatives of the News Media Coalition

Introduction by Andrew Moger, Chief Executive of News Media Coalition

For information and discussion

50. Intervention by Matjaž Gruden, Director, Directorate for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

11:15 - 11:30 Coffee break

51. Recent country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression

Presentation by CDMSI members and other participants

For information and discussion

52. Request for observer status by the Center for Countering Digital Hate ([CCDH](#))

For decision

53. Participation in past and future events of relevance for the CDMSI

- [28th Legal and Policy Assembly of the European Broadcasting Union](#) (EBU), 10-11 October 2024, Strasbourg
- [UNESCO 2024 Global Commemoration and Day of Action](#): Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies, 6 - 7 November 2024, African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- [RightsCon](#) Summit, Taipei, 24-27 February 2025
- Update from appointed CDMSI rapporteurs on transversal issues and liaison contacts with partner Committees

Information provided by the CDMSI members and by the Secretariat

54. Any other business

Date and place of next meeting

Appendix 2

Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) / Comité directeur sur les médias et la société de l'information (CDMSI)

26h meeting – 4-6 December 2024 /
26^e réunion – 4-6 décembre 2024

List of participants / Liste de participant.e.s

Total number of participants: 104 / Nombre total des participants : 104

Gender distribution: 54 men (56%) / 50 women (44%) / Parité entre hommes : 54 hommes (56%) / 50 femmes (44%)

MEMBERS/MEMBRES

ARMENIA/ARMENIE	Marietta MNATSAKANYAN Legal Expert, "Center of Legislation Development" Foundation, Ministry of Justice of Armenia / <i>Expert juridique, Fondation « Centre de développement de la législation », ministère de la Justice d'Arménie</i>
AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE	Andreas ULRICH Federal Chancellery, Constitutional Service, Media, Information Society, Political Parties (Law) / <i>Chancellerie fédérale, Service constitutionnel, Service Médias et société de l'information, partis politiques (droit)</i> Julia Zoehling Federal Chancellery, Constitutional Service, Media, Information Society, Political Parties (Law) / <i>Chancellerie fédérale, Service constitutionnel, Service Médias et société de l'information, partis politiques (droit)</i>
AZERBAIJAN/AZERBAÏDJAN	Rasim BAGHIROV Head of International Relations and Strategic Planning, Media Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan / <i>Responsable des relations internationales et de la planification stratégique, Agence de développement des médias de la République d'Azerbaïdjan</i>
BELGIUM/BELGIQUE	Johan BOUCIQUÉ Media Advisor, Department of Culture, Youth and Media, Flemish Government / <i>Conseiller médias, Département de la culture, de la jeunesse et des médias, Gouvernement flamand</i>
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE	Emir POVLAKIC Head of Audiovisual and Media Services, Communications Regulatory Agency / <i>Chef des services audiovisuels et médias, Agence de régulation des communications</i>
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	Iglika IVANOVA State Expert, International cooperation, European Programmes and Regional Activities Directorate, Ministry of Culture /

	<i>Expert d'État, Coopération internationale, Direction des programmes européens et des activités régionales, ministère de la Culture</i>
CROATIA/CROATIE	Nives ZVONARIĆ Head of Media Sector, Ministry of Culture and Media / <i>Cheffe du secteur des médias, ministère de la Culture et des Médias</i>
CYPRUS/CHYPRE	Kyriakos KONSTANTA Press and Information Officer, Ministry of Tourism / <i>Attaché de presse et d'information, ministère du Tourisme</i> Nikolas ZACHARIOU Press and Information Officer, Ministry of Interior / <i>Attaché de presse et d'information, ministère de l'Intérieur</i>
CZECH REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE	Artus REJENT Director, Media and Audio-Visual Department, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic / <i>Directeur, Département des médias et de l'audiovisuel, ministère de la Culture de la République Tchèque</i>
ESTONIA/ESTONIE	Taavo LUMISTE Ministry of Foreign Affairs / <i>ministère des Affaires étrangères</i> Mr/M. Andres JÕESAAR Adviser (media), Arts Department, Ministry of Culture / <i>Conseiller, Département des arts, ministère de la Culture</i>
FRANCE	Mathieu PRADIER Copyright and audiovisual regulation editor at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs / <i>Rédacteur droit d'auteur, régulation audiovisuelle au ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères</i> Noemi DANAS Ministry of Culture / <i>ministère de la Culture</i>
GEORGIA/GEORGIE	Ivane MAKHARADZE Commissioner, Communications Commission of Georgia / <i>Commissaire, Commission des communications de Géorgie</i>
GERMANY/ALLEMAGNE	David NEJJAR Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Berlin / <i>Commissaire du gouvernement fédéral à la culture et aux médias, Berlin</i> Florian SCHWEYER Deputy Head of Unit Political Priorities, European Broadcasting and Media Policy, Representation of the Free State of Bavaria, Brussels / <i>Chef d'unité adjoint, Priorités politiques, Politique européenne de l'audiovisuel et des médias, Représentation de l'État libre de Bavière, Bruxelles</i>
GREECE/GRECE	Aikaterini POLYZOU Head of Department for Audiovisual Media & Internet, Secretariat General for Communication & Media / <i>Chef du département Médias audiovisuels et Internet, Direction des médias, Secrétariat général pour la communication et les média</i>
HUNGARY/HONGRIE	György OCSKÓ

	International Legal Advisor, National Media and Infocommunications Authority / <i>Conseiller juridique international, Autorité nationale des médias et des info-communications</i>
IRELAND/IRLANDE	Leah KIERAN Administrative Officer, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Broadcasting & Media Division / <i>Administrateur, ministère du Tourisme, de la Culture, des Arts, du Gaeltacht, des Sports et des Médias, division de la radiodiffusion et des médias</i>
ITALY/ITALIE	Claudia SARTORI Director General, Agency for the right to university education, Professor of Information and Communication, University of Rome / <i>Directeur general, Agence pour le droit à l'éducation universitaire, Professeur d'information et de communication, Université de Rome</i>
LATVIA/LETTONIE	Andris MELLAKAULS Head of Information Space Integration Division, Ministry of Culture / <i>Chef de la Division de l'intégration de l'espace d'information, ministère de la Culture</i>
LITHUANIA/LITUANIE	Agnė MIKSTIENE Chief Specialist, Media and Copyright Policy Unit, Ministry of Culture/ <i>Spécialiste en chef, Unité de la politique des médias et des droits d'auteur, ministère de la Culture</i>
LUXEMBOURG	Céline FLAMMANG Senior policy advisor, Department of Media, Connectivity and Digital Policy, Ministry of State / <i>Conseillère principale, service des Médias, de la Connectivité et de la Politique numérique, ministère d'État</i>
MALTA/MALTE	Marija Sara VELLA GAFA Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector/ <i>ministère de la Justice et de la Réforme du secteur de la construction</i>
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA/ REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	Aneta GONTA Vice-president of the Republic of Moldova Audiovisual Council / <i>Vice-Présidente du Conseil de l'audiovisuel de la République de Moldova</i>
MONACO	Serge ROBILLARD Head of Partnerships and Institutional Relations, Interministerial Delegation in charge of Digital Transition / <i>Chargé des partenariats et des relations institutionnelles, Délégation Interministérielle chargée de la Transition Numérique</i> Paloma REBSTOCK Interministerial Delegation in charge of Digital Transition/ <i>Délégation Interministérielle chargée de la Transition Numérique</i>
NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS	Inge WELBERGEN (Vice-Chair/ Vice-présidente) Legal officer Media, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Directorate-General of Culture and Media, Media and Creative Industries / <i>Conseiller juridique Médias, ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et des Sciences, Direction générale de la Culture et des Médias, Médias et Industries créatives</i>

NORWAY/NORVEGE	Luise SALTE Media Advisor, Ministry of Culture and Equality/ <i>Conseillère en médias, ministère de la Culture et de l'Égalité</i>
POLAND/POLOGNE	Magda JAGIELLOWICZ Chief Specialist, Media Law Unit, Department of Media and Creative Sectors, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (KRRIT) / <i>Spécialiste en chef, Unité du droit des médias, Département de médias et des secteurs créatifs, ministère de la culture et du Patrimoine national</i>
PORTUGAL	Charlotte SIMÕES Policy Officer, International Relations and Communication Department, General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers / <i>Chargée de mission, Service des relations internationales et de la communication, Secrétariat général de la Présidence du Conseil des ministres</i> Sérgio GOMES DA SILVA Director of International Relations and Communications at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers / <i>Directeur des services des relations internationales et de la communication à la présidence du Conseil des ministres</i>
ROMANIA/ROUMANIE	Marius JITEA Public Manager, General Secretariat of the Government of Romania / <i>Manager public, Secrétariat général du gouvernement de la Roumanie</i>
SAN MARINO	Gloria VALENTINI Second Secretary/ <i>Deuxième secrétaire</i>
SERBIA/SERBIE	Maja ZARIC (Chair/Présidente) Head of Division for International Cooperation in the Field of Media, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications/ <i>Chef de la division de la coopération internationale dans le domaine des médias, ministère de l'Information et des Télécommunications</i> Maja MILENKOVIC Head of normative Unit at Media Department, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications / <i>Chef de l'unité normative au département des médias, ministère de l'Information et des Télécommunications</i>
SLOVAK REPUBLIC/REPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE	Verónika KNAPPOVA , Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic / <i>ministère de la Culture de la République slovaque</i>
SLOVENIA/SLOVENIE	Skender ADEM Undersecretary, Ministry of Culture of Republic of Slovenia / <i>Sous-secrétaire, ministère de la Culture de la République de Slovénie</i>
SPAIN	Miguel OVEJERO PEREZ Advisory member of the S.G. for the Digital Society. Ministry for Digital Transformation and the Civil Service / <i>Membre consultatif du S.G. pour la société numérique. Ministère de la transformation numérique et de la fonction publique</i>
SWEDEN/SUEDE	Filippa Arvas OLSSON

	Senior Adviser, Ministry of Culture, Division for Media and Democracy / <i>Conseiller principal, ministère de la culture, division des médias et de la démocratie</i>
SWITZERLAND/SUISSE	<p>Thomas SCHNEIDER Ambassador, Director of International Affairs, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication DETEC, Federal Office of Communications OFCOM / <i>Ambassadeur, Directeur des affaires internationales, Service fédéral de l'environnement, des transports, de l'énergie et de la communication DETEC, Office fédéral de la communication OFCOM</i></p> <p>Isabelle LOIS Senior Policy Advisor, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC, Federal Office of Communications OFCOM / <i>Conseillère politique principale, Service fédéral de l'environnement, des transports, de l'énergie et de la communication DETEC, Office fédéral de la communication OFCOM</i></p>
TÜRKIYE	<p>Yusuf DEMİRTAŞ Deputy Head, International Relations Department, Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK), / <i>Vice-chef, Département des relations internationales, Conseil suprême de la radio et de la télévision (RTUK)</i></p> <p>Gülten İMRE ÇETİN Expert - Public Diplomacy Department, Presidency of The Republic of Türkiye, Directorate of Communications/ <i>Expert - Département de la diplomatie publique, Présidence de la République de Turquie, Direction des communications</i></p> <p>Özge KODAZ Paris Communications Counsellor, Turkish Embassy in Paris/ <i>Conseiller en communication, Ambassade de Turquie à Paris</i></p>
UKRAINE	Oiha HERASYMIUK Chair, National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine / <i>Présidente, Conseil national de la télévision et de la radiodiffusion d'Ukraine</i>
UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI	<p>Marney CRAINEY Head of Multilateral Strategy, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology / <i>Cheffe de la stratégie multilatérale, Service de la science, de l'innovation et de la technologie</i></p> <p>Louis SHARKEY International Media Senior Policy Advisor, Department for Culture, Media, and Sport. / <i>Conseiller politique principal pour les médias internationaux, Service de la culture, des médias et du sport</i></p>

OBSERVERS STATES / ÉTATS OBSERVATEURS

HOLY SEE/SAINT SIEGE	<p>Michael LUKAS Spokesman of the Order of Malta in the Diocese of Hildesheim / <i>Porte-parole de l'Ordre de Malte dans le diocèse de Hildesheim</i></p>
MOROCCO/MAROC	<p>EI Mahdi AROUSSI IDRISSI Director of the Legal Studies Department, focal point, High Authority for Audio-visual Communication (HACA) / <i>Directeur du Département des études juridiques, point focal, Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle (HACA)</i></p> <p>Othmane ALAMI LAKTIB Senior Manager, Legal Studies Department, High Authority for Audio-visual Communication (HACA) / <i>Cadre supérieur, Département des études juridiques, Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle (HACA)</i></p> <p>Chanaz EL AKRICH Head of Division for Cooperation Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Department of Communication / <i>Cheffe de division de la Coopération, ministère de la Culture, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, Département de la Communication</i></p>

OBSERVERS TO THE CDMSI / OBSERVATEURS AUPRES DU CDMSI

ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND VIDEO ON DEMAND SERVICES IN EUROPE (ACTE)	<p>Erard GILLES Head of media and data taskforce / <i>Chef de la taskforce médias et données</i></p>
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR VIEWERS INTERESTS (EAVI)	<p>Semih SOLMAZ Project and Development Manager / <i>Responsable de projet et de développement</i></p>
EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION (EBU) / UNION EUROPEENNE DE RADIO-TELEVISION	<p>Sophia WISTEHUBE Legal Counsel / <i>Conseiller juridique</i></p>

<p>NEWS MEDIA COALITION (NMC)/ COALITION DES MEDIAS D'INFORMATION</p>	<p>Andrew MOGER Chief Executive of the News Media Coalition and former publishing managing editor/ <i>Directeur general</i></p> <p>Robert HESLOP Public Affairs Specialist of the NMC including the European Publishers Council</p> <p>John BATTLE King's Counsel (Hons), Head of Legal and Compliance at Independent Television News (ITN) and former chair of the Media Lawyers Association</p> <p>Alexandru GIBOI General Secretary of the European Alliance of News Agencies and former General Director and President at the Romanian national news agency Agerpress</p> <p>Deborah BONETTI Director of the Foreign Press Association and correspondent of Italian daily newspaper Il Giorno</p>
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OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

<p>INTERNET RIGHTS AND PRINCIPLES COALITION (IRPC) STEERING COMMITTEE / COMITÉ DE PILOTAGE DE LA COALITION POUR LES DROITS ET PRINCIPES DE L'INTERNET (IRPC)</p>	<p>Minda MOREIRA <i>Co-Chair/ Coprésident</i></p> <p>Dennis REDEKER <i>Co-Chair/ Coprésident</i></p>
<p>MEDIAWISE SOCIETY</p>	<p>Nicoleta FOTIADE Media Literacy Educator & Trainer, Associated to Mediawise Society and International Association for Media Education / <i>Éducatrice et formatrice en éducation aux médias, associée à la Mediawise Society et à l'Association internationale pour l'éducation aux médias</i></p>
<p>CENTER FOR COUNTERING DIGITAL HATE</p>	<p>Johan THOMPSON <i>EU Policy Manager/responsable politique de l'Union européenne</i></p>
<p>REPORTERS SHIELD</p>	<p>Peter NOORLANDER <i>Independent Consultant and Startup Director / Consultant indépendant et directeur de startup</i></p>

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

<p>COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS/COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME</p>	<p>Michael O'FLAHERTY <i>Commissioner / Commissaire</i></p> <p>Ozgur DERMAN</p>
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	Head of Division – Deputy to the Director/ Chef de division - Adjoint au directeur
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE IMPACTS OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (MSI-AI) / COMITE D'EXPERTS SUR LES IMPLICATIONS DE L'INTELLIGENCE ARTIFICIELLE GENERATIVE POUR LA LIBERTE D'EXPRESSION (MSI-AI)	Andrin EICHIN Chair / <i>President</i> Iva NENADIC Drafting Co-rapporteur/ <i>Co-rapporteur de rédaction</i>
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ONLINE SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT OF CONTENT CREATORS AND USERS (MSI-ESEC) / COMITE D'EXPERTS SUR LA SECURITE EN LIGNE ET LA RESPONSABILISATION DES CREATEURS DE CONTENUS ET DES UTILISATEURS	Mme Nicole STELLOU Chair / <i>Présidente</i> Martin HUSOVEC Drafting Co-Rapporteur/ <i>Co-rapporteur de rédaction</i>
STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP) / COMITE DIRECTEUR DE LA CULTURE, DU PATRIMOINE ET DU PAYSAGE	Terje Birkrem HOVLAND Chair of the CDCPP / <i>Président du CDCPP</i> Daniil KHOCHABO Secretary to the CDCPP / <i>Secrétaire du CDCPP</i>
EURIMAGE	Alex Traila Partial Agreement – Eurimage / <i>Accord partiel - Eurimage</i>
EUROPEAN AUDIO-VISUAL OBSERVATORY / OBSERVATOIRE EUROPEEN DE L'AUDIOVISUEL	Susanne NIKOLTCHEV Executive Director / <i>Directrice exécutive</i> Maja CAPPELLO Head of Department for Legal Information / <i>Cheffe du département d'informatoïn juridique</i> Justine RADEL-CORMANN Legal Analyst/ <i>Analyste juridique</i> Sophie VALAIS Deputy Head of Department for Legal Information / <i>Adjointe au chef de département pour l'information juridique</i> Laura ENE Market Analyst/ <i>Analyste de marché</i> Olivier HERMANN Legal Analyst/ <i>Analyste juridique</i> Eric MUNCH Legal Analyst/ <i>Analyste juridique</i>

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS	Judge Arnfinn BÅRDSSEN Vice-President/ <i>Vice-président</i>
EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (EPRA)/ LA PLATE-FORME EUROPÉENNE DES INSTANCES DE RÉGULATION	Emmanuelle MACHET Head of EPRA Secretariat / <i>Cheffe du secrétariat de l'EPRA</i>
GENDER EQUALITY DIVISION / DIVISION DE L'ÉGALITÉ DE GENRE	Caterina BOLOGNESE Head of Division / <i>Cheffe de division</i>
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY / ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE	Roberto FASINO Secretary to the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media / <i>Secrétaire de la Commission de la culture, de la science, de l'éducation et des médias</i> Guillem CANO-PALOMARES Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat de la Commission des Questions Juridiques et des Droits de l'Homme</i> Thorhildur SUNNA ÆVARSDÓTTIR General Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and whistleblowers, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights / <i>Rapporteur général sur la situation des défenseurs des droits de l'homme et des dénonciateurs, commission des affaires juridiques et des droits de l'homme</i>
COUNCIL OF EUROPE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION GROUP ON DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS (POMPIDOU GROUP)/ GROUPE DE COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE SUR LES DROGUES ET LES ADDICTIONS (GROUPE POMPIDOU)	Elena HEDOUX Secretariat / <i>Secrétariat</i>
EUROVISIONI	Giacomo MAZZONE Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

DGII – DIRECTORATE FOR DEMOCRACY - DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN DIGNITY / DIRECTION DE LA DEMOCRATIE - DIRECTION GENERALE DE LA DEMOCRATIE ET DE LA DIGNITE HUMAINE

<p>Mr/M Matjaz GRUDEN Director, Directorate for Democracy / <i>Directeur, Direction de la Démocratie</i></p>
<p>Irena GUIDIKOVA Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department / <i>Cheffe du département des institutions démocratiques et des libertés</i></p>
<p>Artemiza-Tatiana CHISCA Secretary to the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), Head of Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / <i>Secrétaire du Comité Directeur Médias et Société de l'Information (CDMSI), Cheffe de la Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI</i></p>
<p>Giulia LUCCHESI Vice- Secretary to the CDMSI, Secretary to the Committee of Experts on the Impacts of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression (MSI-AI) / <i>Vice-secrétaire du CDMSI, Secrétaire du Comité d'experts sur les implications de l'intelligence artificielle générative pour la liberté d'expression (MSI-AI)</i></p>
<p>Cesare PITEA Secretary to the Committee of Experts on online safety and empowerment of content creators and users (MSI-eSEC) / <i>Secrétaire du Comité d'experts sur la sécurité en ligne et la responsabilisation des créateurs de contenus et des utilisateurs (MSI-eSEC)</i></p>
<p>Rodica CIOCHINA Programme Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / <i>Chargée de programme, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI</i></p>
<p>Tudor ROSU Programme Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / <i>Chargée de programme, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI</i></p>
<p>Quentin COLOMINA Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / <i>Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI</i></p>
<p>Alina TATARENKO Head of Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression / <i>Cheffe de division pour la coopération en matière de liberté d'expression</i></p>
<p>Paul MEYER Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression / <i>division pour la coopération en matière de liberté d'expression</i></p>
<p>Adrian EVTUHOVICI Platform for the Safety of Journalists / <i>Plateforme pour la sécurité des journalistes</i></p>
<p>Irina TOMOVA Assistant, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / <i>Assistante, Division Médias et Internet</i></p>
<p>Roxana VENER Assistant, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / <i>Assistante, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI</i></p>

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES :

Nicolas GUITTONNEAU
Morgane LAMOTHE