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26 August 2026

STEERING COMMITTEE ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION SOCIETY

(CDMSI)

29th Plenary meeting

17-19 June 2025

MEETING REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting

The Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) held its 29th Plenary meeting in a hybrid format, in Strasbourg and online, on 17-19 June 2026. The Chair, Ms Aykaterini Polyzou (Greece), welcomed members, observers and participants. She introduced Roberto Olla, Head of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, to deliver the opening address.

Mr Olla emphasised the Committee's current work on the deliverables scheduled for adoption or endorsement by 2027, including the draft Recommendation on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment, the Guidance Note on media regulators in a platform-based environment, the study on how social media and other platforms influence opinion and action, and the practical guide on building independent, sustainable, and pluralistic public service media.

He encouraged CDMSI's active participation in the work of its two subordinate expert committees, stressing the value of early engagement to orient and oversee the deliverables. He praised the established practice of open consultations and ongoing follow-up to adopted standard-setting instruments, highlighting efforts to compile and disseminate good practices in areas such as hate speech, defamation and SLAPPs.

Acknowledging recent successful events, notably held under the "[Journalists Matter](#)" Campaign, he thanked the Moldovan and Monaco Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers, respectively, for their support. He highlighted the alignment of CDMSI's work with the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#), with its relevance further reinforced by the Secretary

General's 2026 Annual Report entitled "[The New Democratic Pact for Europe in times of rupture](#)". Addressing future work, he urged the Steering Committee to remain forward-looking, reaffirming the foundational values of the Organisation and encouraging continued efforts in strengthening democratic resilience and security.

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

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

3. Standard-setting – CDMSI Expert Committees' work progress

3.1. Committee of Experts on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment ([MSI-ePLU](#))

Aneta Gonța (Republic of Moldova), Chair of the Committee of Experts on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment ([MSI-ePLU](#)), reported on the outcomes of the first MSI-ePLU meeting, held in a hybrid format on 3–4 March 2026, in Strasbourg. She informed the CDMSI of her election as Chair, with Marko Milosavljević as Vice-Chair. The MSI-ePLU appointed Elda Brogi and Damian Tambini as drafting co-rapporteurs, and Fenna van Haeften (the Netherlands) and Konstantina Bania as rapporteurs for gender equality, and for children's rights and youth, respectively. She outlined the timeline agreed by the MSI-ePLU, which is tasked to produce a draft Recommendation on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment by the end of 2027. A first full draft will be prepared and distributed for discussion at the CDMSI plenary in December 2026.

The drafting co-rapporteurs presented a preliminary outline, emphasising that while the notion and principles of media pluralism in Council of Europe instruments remain valid, the regulatory framework needs to be updated to address structural changes in the media ecosystem. They noted the need to clarify the roles and risks of new actors such as online platforms, generative AI tools, and data brokers, and to propose appropriate structural and behavioural remedies. The proposed structure and key elements for the draft recommendation were discussed.

The CDMSI took note of the [report of the first meeting](#) of the MSI-ePLU and exchanged views on the preliminary outline. Members welcomed the initiated work, and called for clear terminology, practical policy and regulatory guidance. They also emphasised the centrality of access by the public and related prominence regimes for general interest media, including public service media. They further underlined the necessity to address the relationship between pluralism, algorithmic curation and AI-generated content.

The CDMSI invited its members, participants and observers to provide contributions to the preliminary outline by 15 July 2026.

3.2. Committee of Experts on media regulators in a platform-based environment ([MSI-eREG](#))

Stephanie Comey, Chair of [the Committee of Experts on Media Regulators in a Platform-based Environment](#) (MSI-eREG), presented the outcome of the Committee's [first meeting](#), held on 26–27 March 2026, and introduced the extended outline of the future Guidance Note on Media Regulators in a Platform-based Environment, to be prepared by the end of 2027. She explained that the future instrument aims to provide practical and operational guidance for member states and media regulators, building on existing Council of Europe standards while addressing the challenges arising from platform-based media environments. She outlined the proposed structure of the Guidance Note and its key areas, including the independence and effectiveness of regulators, platform governance and systemic risks, cross-border co-operation and jurisdiction, algorithmic curation, regulatory powers and evidence-based regulation. She also presented the envisaged roadmap for the Committee's work.

CDMSI members welcomed the work of MSI-eREG and its practical orientation and exchanged on the forms of co-operation envisaged between regulators and other relevant stakeholders, the scope of the future Guidance Note and its relationship with existing relevant standards. They also highlighted the importance of addressing cross-border co-operation, jurisdictional issues, algorithmic curation, media pluralism and the role of digital gatekeepers.

The CDMSI invited its members, participants and observers to provide contributions to the preliminary outline by 15 July 2026.

4. Exchange with European Commission, DG Connect

Raffaele Di Giovanni Bezzi, Legal and Policy Officer, Audiovisual and Media Services Policy Unit, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT), European Commission, provided an overview of recent developments in EU media services policy. He highlighted a significant shift of advertising revenues from offline to online environments, which threatens the sustainability of pluralistic media. He underlined that the Audiovisual Media Services Directive ([AVMSD](#)) and the European Media Freedom Act ([EMFA](#)) share a twofold objective - ensuring the functioning of the internal market and at the same time supporting media freedom and pluralism- and are complementary with instruments such as the Digital Services Act ([DSA](#)). He further described the planned AVMSD review, structured around four pillars: scope and enforcement; audiovisual commercial communications; viewer and minor protection; and media diversity. He concluded with an overview of the EMFA's key provisions, including journalist protection, public service media independence, market transparency, and the establishment of the [European Board for Media Services](#).

The ensuing discussion was focused on the need to ensure regular co-operation between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, the importance of addressing video-sharing platforms and social media in the context of the AVMSD review, particularly regarding

minor protection, the interaction between the AVMSD and the Digital Services Act and the possible extension of prominence rules to all media categories.

5. Standard-setting – further expected deliverables

Practical guide on building independent, sustainable, and pluralistic public service media (PSM)

The Secretariat informed the CDMSI about the progress in the preparation of the Practical Guide on Building Independent, Sustainable and Pluralistic Public Service Media (PSM), currently being drafted by Marius Dragomir and Tanja Kerševan, consultants. It was recalled that the Guide aims to translate existing Council of Europe standards into practical guidance for member states in addressing the evolving challenges faced by PSM. Mr Dragomir presented the extended outline of the Guide, outlining its proposed structure and key thematic areas, including governance and institutional independence, sustainable funding, public value, digital transformation, technological developments and audience engagement. The CDMSI was also informed about the envisaged timetable, including an expert consultation planned for September 2026 and the preparation of a first draft for discussion by the CDMSI at its next Plenary meeting.

It was also clarified that the Guide would not prescribe a single governance model but identify good and promising practices, drawing on comparative research to support member states in strengthening the independence, governance and sustainability of PSM.

During the discussion, the representative of the [European Broadcasting Union](#) (EBU), observer to the CDMSI, welcomed the initiative and underlined the need for the Guide to reflect the growing challenges faced by PSM, including increasing political pressure, threats to editorial independence, the governance of supervisory bodies and sustainable funding. She also stressed the need to reflect the implications of the growing influence of online platforms and algorithmic systems for PSM.

6. CDMSI involvement in the work of the Committee of Experts on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference ([PC-FIMI](#))

Artemiza-Tatiana Chisca, Secretary of the CDMSI and Head of Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, informed the CDMSI that, following the approval of a feasibility study by the PC-FIMI ([CM/Inf\(2026\)18](#)) and endorsement by the European Committee on Crime Problems ([CDPC](#)), the Committee of Ministers, at the 135th Session of the Committee of Ministers held in Chişinău, in the Republic of Moldova, on 14 and 15 May 2026, [decided](#) to instruct the Secretary General to submit proposals relating to the negotiation of an appropriate legal instrument, including a possible framework convention. Kristian Bartholin, former Secretary of the PC-FIMI, thanked the CDMSI for its contribution to the work and success of the PC-FIMI. He informed the CDMSI that a proposal for Terms of Reference of a future *ad hoc* Committee to elaborate a draft of such a legal instrument would be discussed by the Committee of Ministers. He further informed that a CDMSI representative would be invited to be involved in the drafting process. Inge Welbergen (the Netherlands), the appointed

representative of the CDMSI to the PC-FIMI, expressed appreciation for the support received from the Secretariat in this connection.

The CDMSI welcomed the information received and expressed its continued and strong interest in this process, highlighted the ongoing relevance of the freedom of expression perspective, and ensured its readiness to remain involved and contribute through timely and thorough consultations.

7. Standard-setting – further expected deliverables under CDMSI Terms of reference

7.1. Review report on the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on combating hate speech (in co-operation with [CDADI](#))

Jennifer Jackson-Preece, consultant, presented the work progress on the draft Review report on the implementation of relevant aspects of CM/Rec(2022)16, to be elaborated with the support of the secretariats of the CDMSI and the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI). She clarified the scope, timeline, methodology and approach of the review report, intended to provide an overview of the status of implementation of CM/Rec(2022)16, to identify good practices, emerging trends and priorities for future work. She highlighted that the deliverable will build on the findings of the [Compilation of promising practices on combating hate speech at national level](#) and the [Self-assessment tool to prevent and combat hate speech](#) (approved by the CDMSI and CDADI in 2024), further desk research, relevant reports of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance ([ECRI](#)), and developments in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The CDMSI welcomed the presentation and took note that a *tour de table* will be organised at the next CDMSI Plenary meeting, with a view to gather member states' inputs and inform the review report.

7.2. Review report on the implementation of Council of Europe standards on defamation and Compilation of promising practices at national level for the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2024\)2](#) on countering Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs)

The Secretariat informed the CDMSI of the ongoing work on the "Review report on the implementation of Council of Europe standards on defamation" and the "Compilation of promising practices at national level for the implementation of relevant aspects of Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)2 on countering Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs)". It was emphasised that the processes for the two deliverables are progressing in parallel and are closely co-ordinated, given the proximity of the topics concerned. Specifically, this co-ordination involves an aligned timeline, with both deliverables expected to be completed by spring 2027, a single questionnaire dispatched to member states for both deliverables, joint coordination of expert work, and the organisation of an expert consultation workshop on 5 October, to be held in the premises of the Council of Europe in Paris.

The CDMSI took note of the aim, methodology, and preliminary outline of each deliverable, as presented by the Secretariat, exchanged views on the information provided, and invited its members to respond to the questionnaire by 8 July 2026.

8. Update on follow-up to other CDMSI deliverables

The Secretariat reported to the CDMSI about the latest follow-up activities relating to several CDMSI recently adopted deliverables. Members took note of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2026\)4](#) on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators; of awareness-raising and dissemination activities concerning the [Guidance Note on the Implications of Generative AI for Freedom of Expression](#), including its presentation during an informal exchange of views of the Committee of Ministers on “Freedom of Expression and Democratic Resilience”, organised under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers on 9 April 2026, and the public online launch, held on 19 May 2026. The Secretariat noted that similar promotional activities could be envisaged in the future for other CDMSI deliverables.

The Secretariat further reported on the publication [Resisting disinformation: 10 building blocks to strengthen information integrity](#) and the practical tool [National Media and Information Literacy Strategies: Practical Steps and Indicators](#) during the [High-Level Conference on Media Literacy and Information Integrity](#) held in 20 March, in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, in the presence of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset, and the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu. Members were informed that both publications had subsequently been promoted in a number of relevant events. As a follow-up to the [Feasibility Study on Benefits and Challenges to Freedom of Expression in Immersive Realities](#), an international [Conference on Human Rights in Immersive Realities \(XR\): Freedom of Expression, Justice, Children's Rights and Well-Being](#), was held in Strasbourg on 18–19 May 2026.

CDMSI members stressed the importance of ensuring effective follow-up to the Committee's deliverables, including through continued dissemination, translation into national languages and, notably, through national implementation measures. Therefore, they encouraged the Secretariat to continue such activities to strengthen their visibility and practical impact.

9. Country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression. Implementation of existing standards

The CDMSI took note of the information provided by Ukraine about recent developments affecting the media sector in the context of the ongoing war, including continued attacks on media infrastructure, efforts to document crimes against journalists, legislative reforms to implement anti-SLAPP standards, measures to safeguard the information space while protecting freedom of expression, and initiatives to strengthen the resilience and well-being of journalists.

The CDMSI also welcomed developments in Greece, including about the initiated work on a three-year national media literacy strategy, placing particular emphasis on education and

resilience against disinformation and drawing on the recently adopted [10 Building Blocks to Strengthen Information Integrity](#) policy document of the CDMSI.

10. Standard-setting – further expected deliverables under CDMSI Terms of reference

Study on how social media and other platforms shape opinion and action

Iva Nenadic, consultant, presented the work progress on the draft “Study on how social media and other platforms shape opinions and actions”, to be delivered by 2027, and the study on “Shifting News Authorities and Democratic Resilience Opportunities and Risks Associated with Newsfluencers in Europe”, commissioned by the CDMSI Secretariat and finalised ahead of the 29th Plenary meeting.

With regards to the latter, Ms Nenadic informed the study on Newsfluencers was elaborated alongside another consultant, Marijana Grbeša, with the aim to address the risks and opportunities related to the rise of these new hybrid actors operating at the intersection of journalism, influencer culture, and platform-based creative economies and reflecting a profound transformation within the news and information ecosystem. While newsfluencers are considered neither inherently beneficial nor harmful, their perceived authenticity and independence from institutional gatekeeping position them as both opportunities and vulnerabilities within democratic societies.

The CDMSI welcomed the study and exchanged on the comparative risks associated with newsfluencers and traditional media actors; commercial incentives; and gender imbalances. The CDMSI took note of the study – which will serve as preparatory paper for the work on social media - and agreed to make it public online as an experts document.

The CDMSI also took note of the work progress on the draft “Study on how social media and other platforms shape opinions and actions”, on which Ms Nenadic is working alongside Melisa Basol, consultant. Ms Nenadic presented the aims of the deliverable, intended to map current approaches, identify gaps, and formulate actionable recommendations. She explained the methodology followed, centred on an analytical framework based on both structural and individual perspectives, and how the impact of social media and other platform will be illustrated through case studies, particularly focusing on key democratic processes, such as elections. The study will also emphasise the growing influence of AI-mediated platforms, introducing new complexities for opinion formation and raising concerns about the implications for freedom of expression and democratic resilience.

11. “Targeted voices: Hate speech against women journalists” workshop organised in the framework of the [No Hate Speech Week](#)

CDMSI members participated in the workshop “Targeted voices: Hate speech against women journalists”, organised by the CDMSI Secretariat, as part of the plenary meeting, under the “[Journalists Matter](#)” Campaign and in the framework of the No Hate Speech Week. The event was held in the format of a joint session with the participants in the No Hate Speech Week and saw welcoming remarks delivered by the CDMSI Chair, and an opening address by Louisa Børresen, Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of

Europe and Chair of the Strasbourg Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists and Media Freedom. Experts' presentations were delivered by Jessikka Aro, Julie Posetti, Tarlach McGonagle and Isabella Prins.

The event focused on gendered hate speech against women journalists and proposed a reflection on the implications of attacks targeting women journalists for the victims and beyond. The panel offered a journalist's first-hand testimony; a presentation of recent data concerning AI-generated abuse, manipulated intimate imagery and other forms of technology-facilitated violence representing new risks for women journalists; an overview of existing legal standards and relevant principles extracted from the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights; and, insights from national experiences on effective efforts towards protection, including resilience-building, training, and co-operation with law enforcement and online platforms.

The outcome of the discussion will further shape the Review report on the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on combating hate speech, as well as the Council of Europe [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#), intended, *inter alia*, to strengthen safeguards against hate speech, both online and offline.

12. Council of Europe ‘*Journalists Matter*’ [Campaign for the Safety of Journalists](#)

The Secretariat presented developments regarding the implementation of the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists “*Journalists Matter*”, focusing on the outcomes of the [fourth meeting of National Focal Points](#) and the Annual Conference [Defending Truth - Comprehensive Approaches to Journalistic Safety and Quality Journalism](#), held in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, in April 2026. The Committee was reminded that 41 member States had designated National Focal Points, around 28 national coordination structures had been established or were under development, and 13 national action plans or equivalent strategic frameworks had been adopted. The Campaign's contribution to treating the safety of journalists as a matter of public policy and democratic governance was underlined. The Secretariat also presented plans for the youth initiative [Youth Facing Disinformation - Why Journalists Matter](#), to be developed under the Monaco Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and shared reflections on the sustainability and legacy of the Campaign beyond 2027.

The CDMSI welcomed the results achieved under the Campaign and stressed the value of the structures established at national level. Several delegations highlighted the positive impact of national focal points, coordination mechanisms and action plans in improving co-operation among public authorities, media organisations and civil society. CDMSI members also held a *tour de table* and shared national developments inspired by the Campaign, including the establishment of committees and action plans, consultations with journalists' organisations, anti-SLAPP initiatives, awareness-raising activities and training programmes for law enforcement authorities. Several delegations emphasised that the Campaign provided useful practical guidance and incentives for implementing Council of Europe standard-setting instruments at national level.

CDMSI members expressed broad consensus in favour of maintaining the network of National Focal Points and structures created under the Campaign beyond its conclusion in 2027. Members also welcomed the forthcoming youth initiative and underlined the importance of integrating youth perspectives into work relating to journalists' safety, media literacy and democratic resilience.

13. Study on “Journalists in Times of Conflict: a Shared Duty to Protect under the European Convention on Human Rights”

The Secretariat presented the study *Journalists in Times of Conflict: a Shared Duty to Protect under the European Convention on Human Rights*, which examines the risks faced by journalists reporting from conflict zones and conflict-related environments and explores how existing Council of Europe standards can be implemented through the coordinated action of States, media organisations, journalists' associations, civil society organisations and international actors. The study reviews existing good practices and proposes practical benchmarks and recommendations aimed at strengthening journalists' safety, while safeguarding freedom of expression and public access to information. It also recognises the contribution of the Council of Europe '[Journalists Matter](#)' Campaign for the Safety of Journalists as a practical framework supporting the implementation of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2016\)4](#) on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors.

The CDMSI took note of on the Study and agreed to make it public online as an expert document, following minor revisions.

14. Appointment of a CDMSI representative to the [Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions \(BIO-ALN\)](#)

The Secretariat informed the CDMSI that it had been invited to appoint one representative to participate in the newly established [Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions \(BIO-ALN\)](#) established under the authority of the [Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health](#) (CD-BIO). It was explained that, given the cross-sectoral nature of online and digital addictions, the BIO-ALN intends bringing together representatives from a wide range of Council of Europe' Steering Committees and monitoring bodies.

To ensure a CDMSI perspective, the members appointed Maja Zarić (Serbia) as its representative to the BIO-ALN Drafting Committee.

15. Exchange of views with Gilles Marchand, Director, Media & Philanthropy Initiative ([IMP](#))

The CDMSI held an exchange with Gilles Marchand, former Director of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation and currently affiliated with the University of Geneva, regarding the Media & Philanthropy Initiative, developed at the Geneva Centre for Philanthropy, and the [Charter of Philanthropic Engagement in the Media Sector](#). Mr Marchand outlined the critical

situation facing media funding across Europe, characterised by both cultural and structural crises. He emphasised the significant decline in media revenues and trust and warned that continued inaction may result in media deserts detrimental to democracy and society's functioning. In his presentation, he identified major sociological and geopolitical trends shaping the media landscape and illustrated how these factors have exacerbated polarisation, decreased quality of public debate, and contributed to a climate favouring populism. Therefore, he presented a rationale for exploring alternative and complementary funding avenues, highlighting philanthropy as a promising mechanism. He further presented the study "[Towards a Charter of Philanthropic Engagement in the Media Sector](#)", providing guiding principles for all stakeholders involved (philanthropic donors, recipient media organisations, public authorities) in the development and implementation of such support mechanisms.

During the exchange, CDMSI members addressed the future role of public service media, the scope of philanthropic engagement, and the evolving definition of media. They agreed on the need for clarity and courage from policymakers in addressing media viability in the digital age and recognised the relevance of Mr Marchand's propositions to the ongoing work of the CDMSI and the Council of Europe.

16. Exchange of views with Gabriel Revel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe

The Committee held an exchange of views with Ambassador Gabriel Revel, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe, on the priorities of the [Presidency of Monaco of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe](#) (May – November 2026). The Ambassador presented the Presidency's overarching theme, "Protection for all through an effective Organisation responding to contemporary challenges", and outlined its five thematic priorities: the protection of women's rights and combating violence against women; the protection of children and young people; support for the system of the European Convention on Human Rights; strengthening co-operation among States in addressing transnational challenges, including organised crime; and, promoting safe and healthy sport for children and young people.

Particular attention was given to the Presidency's priority relating to children and young people, including challenges linked to digital technologies, disinformation and radicalisation. In this context, the Ambassador referred to the forthcoming event [Youth Facing Disinformation – Why Journalists Matter](#) (Strasbourg, 9-10 November 2026), appreciated the Secretariat's involvement and expressed confidence on its important contribution to strengthening democratic resilience among young people.

The CDMSI welcomed the priorities of the Monaco Presidency and its support for issues falling within the CDMSI's mandate. The relevance of the "Youth Facing Disinformation - Why Journalists Matter" initiative was also noted in light of France's forthcoming Chairmanship of the Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists and Media Freedom.

17. Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the [European Platform of Regulatory Authorities](#) (EPRA)

Emmanuelle Machet, Head of the Secretariat of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA), informed the CDMSI about recent relevant activities, including the main outcomes of the [63rd EPRA Meeting](#) held in Tirana on 20–22 May 2026. She highlighted discussions on ensuring the accessibility of audiovisual content for all audiences and on the regulatory challenges arising from the emergence of new and hybrid audiovisual services in a rapidly evolving digital media environment. She also presented EPRA's forthcoming activities, including its work on media literacy and AI, upcoming [plenary meetings](#), and the continued close co-operation between EPRA and the Council of Europe, notably through the work of the [MSI-eREG](#) and regular exchanges between the two institutions. The CDMSI welcomed the continued co-operation with EPRA and took note of the information provided.

18. Future work of the CDMSI/future terms of reference

Artemiza-Tatiana Chisca, Secretary to the CDMSI, recalled that, under the amended [CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) - Resolution on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, Steering Committees are expected to formulate proposals for their future terms of reference. She outlined the anticipated timeline, indicating that proposals should be finalised and agreed at the 30th CDMSI Plenary Meeting in December 2026. She underlined that, in formulating their proposals, the priorities of the Organisation as emerging from the Reykjavík process and the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe should be taken into account, as well as the budgetary constraints the Organisation may face in the coming years. She presented a preliminary list of possible topics and deliverables for the 2028–2030 work programme, intended to serve as a basis for discussion, and invited members to express their views and agree on a timeline for submitting comments and further proposals.

CDMSI members exchanged extensively on the preliminary proposals, including underlining the importance of early planning for a possible Ministerial Conference. They broadly supported an approach aimed at avoiding duplication and strengthening the implementation of existing standards, whether through reviews or follow-up guidance. They also broadly supported ensuring a follow-up to the “[Journalists Matter](#)” campaign. Members highlighted the importance of a strong focus on media and information literacy and on public service media. On the notion of journalism, members stressed how important it was to ensure that any work would not provide a basis for State oversight of the exercise of the profession. In this context, the position of new information actors providing content to the public, such as content creators and “newsfluencers”, and their responsibilities were identified as an area warranting attention.

The CDMSI agreed that members will submit their inputs by 15 September 2026, instructed the Secretariat to collect the contributions received and prepare, in consultation with the Bureau, a revised list of proposal for examination and adoption by the CDMSI at its 30th Plenary Meeting.

19. Council of Europe Co-operation Activities on Freedom of Expression

Alina Tatarenko, Head of the Division for Co-operation on Freedom of Expression, provided an overview of current Council of Europe activities supporting freedom of expression across selected member states. She presented the projects on media coverage of elections; support to legislative responses to SLAPPs (Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation); progress on implementing recommendations to counter disinformation and hate speech; and work resumed with Belarusian media in exile. Members were also updated about the achievements of the project [RESIST](#) - Strengthening Societal Resilience to Disinformation in Europe, including the development of a benchmarking methodology to assess policies on media, culture, education, and youth resilience to disinformation, based on CDMSI-agreed standards and principles.

CDMSI members noted the importance of the work of the Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression, alongside concerns regarding project financing, noting that several successful projects will not continue without renewed funding. Therefore, CDMSI members underlined the importance of securing sustainable funding for co-operation projects.

20. [Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists](#)

Joanna Szymanska (Article 19), representative of the Platform's [Partner Organisations](#), presented the Platform's Annual [Europe Press Freedom Report "On the tipping point: Press Freedom 2025"](#), highlighting key trends and challenges affecting media freedom and the safety of journalists across Europe. The report highlights the continuing impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on journalists' safety, while also pointing to broader systemic challenges affecting media freedom across Europe, including attacks against journalists, legal harassment through SLAPPs, surveillance and transnational repression, media capture, threats to public service media, online harassment and AI-enabled disinformation. While noting encouraging developments at national and European levels, the report stresses that the effectiveness of existing standards ultimately depends on sustained political commitment to their implementation, practical measures and accountability.

She emphasised that the protection of journalists should be recognised as a core element of democratic resilience and called for media freedom and journalist safety to feature prominently in the Council of Europe's New Democratic Pact for Europe. She also highlighted the importance of strengthening implementation of existing Council of Europe standards, including through the Council of Europe '[Journalists Matter](#)' Campaign. The CDMSI took note of the report and the recommendations presented by the Platform partners.

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

Director Matjaž Gruden warmly thanked the CDMSI for the invitation and commended the Committee's progress, noting that important discussions on future deliverables were initiated and welcoming the exchanges held on relevant topics. He highlighted the importance to acknowledge the central role of media in the process of making democracies more resilient

and sustainable. He also praised the CDMSI's proven ability to adapt to challenges, while recognising persistent threats to freedom of expression, media trust, and democratic integrity. Finally, he welcomed longstanding and new Committee members, expressing gratitude for their dedication as the CDMSI approaches its 30th plenary anniversary.

22. Request for observer status by the [Global Media Registry](#)

The Secretariat informed the CDMSI of the procedure and criteria for the admission of observers, in accordance with [CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) - Resolution on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Olaf Steenfadt, Founder and Managing Director of the Global Media Registry ([GMR](#)), delivered a presentation and outlined the relevance of GMR's activities to the work of the CDMSI.

The CDMSI examined the application for observer status to the CDMSI submitted by the GMR. In the absence of a quorum for voting, the CDMSI agreed to decide on the granting of the observer status by written procedure, by 15 July 2026. For the case where unanimity would not be reached, as required, it was decided to possibly refer the matter to the Committee of Ministers, if the necessary two third majority is met.

23. Exchange of views with [PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)

Tatiana Termacic, Head of Secretariat, and Francisco Cabrera, Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (AS/Cult), informed the CDMSI about recent work on media and information society of the PACE Committee, stressing the importance of working in partnership with the CDMSI, with a view to supporting its standards and initiatives, and filling potential normative gaps by new instruments.

The CDMSI was informed about the adoption of [Resolution 2654 \(2026\) on Copyright enforcement in the artificial intelligence environment](#), the possible upcoming adoption of a draft Resolution and draft Recommendation on Media freedom in sport, and of preliminary draft Report on "Growing threats to media pluralism and to the independence of the media". and a [Motion for a resolution on A new European Convention on Freedom of the Media](#), aiming at safeguarding qualitative information and independent journalism through a comprehensive legally binding instrument.

CDMSI members expressed their appreciation for the work of the AS/Cult and held an exchange, with a particular focus on issues such as the relevance of available current standard-setting instruments and the eventual need for an international legal instrument to enhance media freedom, the mandate of the Steering Committee with respect to copyright, and the importance of the coordination with the European Commission in the framework of the standard-setting work.

24. Exchange of views with Camille Grenier, Executive Director of the [Forum on Information and Democracy](#)

Camille Grenier, Executive Director of the Forum on Information and Democracy ([FID](#)), presented the work methodology and priority workstream of the Forum, and referred to recent activities, with a particular focus on the establishment of the [International Coordination Group on Information Integrity](#). He explained that the initiative aims to enhance coordination among international organisations and multilateral initiatives working on information integrity by reducing duplication, strengthening synergies and promoting joint action. He also highlighted the Forum's main areas of focus, including safeguarding access to reliable information in the age of AI and strengthening information integrity in relation to climate change, as well as the challenges of ensuring sustainable funding and effective international coordination.

The CDMSI welcomed the initiative and noted the common goals of the CDMSI work and of the FID. Members also took note that the CDMSI Secretariat already attended coordination meetings of the Forum and that the Council of Europe itself will be participating to the co-ordination group.

25. Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the [European Audiovisual Observatory](#)

Maja Cappello, Head of Department for Legal Information and Acting Executive Director of the European Audiovisual Observatory (EAO), informed the CDMSI of recent changes in the management and team of the Observatory. She presented the Observatory's current activities, including work relating to the videogame industry, on which a three-years' pilot project is intended to integrate video games in the ordinary scope of activities and budget of the EAO as of 2029. She also provided an overview of recent and upcoming legal publications, updates regarding legal databases and online services, including the launch of a new database on the implementation of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA).

The CDMSI welcomed her presentation and underlined the importance of continued and structured co-operation between the Steering Committee and the [EAO](#).

26. Participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI

Members took note of the document prepared by the Secretariat including the list of events of relevance for the Committee and agreed to send any other information in that regards by email.

- Past:
 - [Fortifying democracy: Strengthening Civic Space and Promoting Information Integrity](#), EFTA House, 27 January, Brussels
 - [International Conference: Shaping democratic renewal: civic space and the path to a New](#)

[Democratic Pact for Europe](#), 2-3 February, Strasbourg

- European Audiovisual Observatory Conference “[Jurisdiction of European audiovisual services](#)”, 5 February, Brussels
- Panel on “Addressing Misinformation and Disinformation and the work of the Council of Europe in the field”, study visit ““[Reclaiming the Narratives: Empowering Marginalised Youth through Digital Advocacy](#)”, 18 February, Strasbourg
- [European Commission’s Media Literacy Expert Group](#) (MLEG) Meeting, 5 March, Brussels
- [UK Media Freedom Forum](#), 5-6 March, London
- UN Human Rights Council side event “[Disinformation as a Tool of Hybrid Warfare: Impacts on Human Rights and Democratic Processes](#)”, 10 March, Geneva
- [Voices – European Festival of Journalism and Media Freedom](#), 10-12 March, Florence
- [Meeting of EMIL](#), EPRA’s Media and Information Literacy Taskforce on “MIL Strategies: what role for the regulators?”, 13 March, online
- Annual Congress of [Forum for European Journalism Students International](#), 26 March, Tilburg
- [International Journalism Festival](#), Council of Europe session “What future for journalism in the era of AI?”, 15-18 April, Perugia
- European Parliament, Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Democracy, Rule of Law, and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group (DRFMG), “[EU Media freedom framework: regulation, challenges, and financing under the next MFF](#)”, 30 April, Strasbourg-Brussels
- [Mediapooli spring Journalists Matter seminar](#), 6 May, Helsinki
- High-Level Event on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), 7-8 May, Brussels
- OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Consultation on the Future of Media Regulation “Safeguarding Public Interest Information in a Rapidly Evolving Media Ecosystem”, 20 May, Tirana
- [63rd EPRA meeting](#), 20-22 May, Tirana
- [EuroDIG](#), 26-27 May, Brussels
- Upcoming:
 - [Public Service Media in the Platform Era](#) – Towards Public Digital Infrastructures, 3-4 September, London
 - [64th EPRA meeting](#), 14-16 October 2026, Dublin

27. Any other business

The CDMSI agreed to hold its next plenary meeting on 8-10 December 2026, in hybrid format, in the premises of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

The CDMSI adopted by written procedure the present meeting report.

AGENDA

17 JUNE – Morning session 09:30 - 12:30 <i>Room G02, Agora, Strasbourg, and online via zoom</i>	
1. Opening of the meeting	Welcoming remarks by Roberto Olla, Head of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe Secretary General Report 2026 - New Democratic Pact for Europe in times of rupture
2. Adoption of the agenda	
3. Standard-setting – CDMSI Expert Committees’ work progress	- Committee of Experts on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment (MSI-ePLU) Draft Recommendation on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment 1st meeting report Outline of the future Recommendation Presentation by - Aneta Gonța (Republic of Moldova), Chair of the MSI-ePLU - Elda Brogi and Damian Tambini, members of the MSI-ePLU, drafting co-Rapporteurs, <i>online</i> - Committee of Experts on media regulators in a platform-based environment (MSI-eREG) Guidance Note on media regulators in a platform-based environment 1st meeting report Outline of the future Guidance Note Presentation by Stephanie Comey (Ireland), Chair of MSI-eREG, <i>online</i> Resolution CM/Res(2021)3-addfinal on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods <i>For information and discussion</i>

11:15 – 11:35 Coffee break

4. Exchange with European Commission, DG Connect

Presentation by **Raffaele Di Giovanni Bezzi**, Legal and Policy officer, Audiovisual and Media Policy Unit, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)

For information and discussion

5. Standard-setting – further expected deliverables

Practical guide on building independent, sustainable, and pluralistic public service media (PSM)

Presentation by **Marius Dragomir**, Director, Media and Journalism Research Center, *online*

For information and discussion

6. CDMSI involvement in the work of the Committee of Experts on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (PC-FIMI)

[CM/Inf\(2026\)18](#) - Feasibility study on the possible elaboration of a legal instrument on foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), including disinformation

[Decisions](#) adopted at the 135th Session of the Committee of Ministers

For information and discussion

Lunch Break 12:30-14:00 - group photo

17 JUNE - Afternoon session 14:00 - 17:30
Room G02, Agora, Strasbourg, and online via zoom

7. Standard-setting – further expected deliverables under CDMSI Terms of reference

7.1. Review report on the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 on combating hate speech (in co-operation with [CDADI](#))

Presentation by **Jennifer Jackson-Preece**, Associate Professor of Nationalism, European Institute and Department of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science, *online*

For information and discussion

7.2. Review report on the implementation of Council of Europe standards on defamation

o Compilation of promising practices at national level for the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)2 on countering Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs) <i>Information provided by the Secretariat and discussion</i>
15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break
8. Update on follow-up to other CDMSI deliverables - Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators - Guidance Note on the Implications of Generative AI for Freedom of Expression – Committee of Ministers Informal exchange on “Freedom of Expression and Democratic Resilience”, organised under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, 9 April, Strasbourg; Online webinar, 19 May 2026 - “Resisting disinformation: 10 building blocks to strengthen information integrity” and National Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Strategies: Practical Steps and Indicators – public launch at the High-Level Conference on Media Literacy and Information Integrity, 20 March, Chişinău - Feasibility study on immersive reality applications and their implications for freedom of expression – Conference on Human Rights in Immersive Realities (XR): Freedom of Expression, Justice, Children’s Rights and Well-Being, 18-19 May, Strasbourg <i>For information and discussion</i>
9. Country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression. Implementation of existing standards Presentation by CDMSI members and other participants <i>For information and discussion</i>
10. Standard-setting – further expected deliverables under CDMSI Terms of reference Study on how social media and other platforms shape opinion and action Presentation by Iva Nenadic, Assistant Professor at the European University Institute and University of Dubrovnik, Scientific Coordinator of the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (EUI), <i>online</i> - o Outline of the Study <i>For information and discussion</i> - o Study on Opportunities and Risks Associated with Newsfluencers in Europe <i>To be taken note of by the CDMSI</i>

18 JUNE – Morning session 09:00 - 12:30
Room 1, Palais de l' Europe, Strasbourg, and online via zoom

- 11. “Targeted voices: Hate speech against women journalists” workshop organised in the framework of the [No Hate Speech Week](#) under the *Journalists Matter* campaign – joint session with the participants to the “NHSW”**

Theme for No Hate Speech Week 2026: ‘Hate Speech – Free Democracy’: Multistakeholder collaboration for preventing and combating hate speech and for inclusive democracy

Agenda and concept note

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

- 12. Council of Europe ‘Journalists Matter’ [Campaign for the Safety of Journalists](#)**

Progress report on most recent developments, including outcome of:

- Fourth meeting of the National Focal Points (22 April, Chişinău)
- Annual Conference [Defending truth - Comprehensive approaches to journalistic safety and quality journalism](#) (23 April, Chişinău)

Future steps under the Campaign, including other initiatives under the ‘prevention pillar’

- [Youth Facing Disinformation - Why Journalists Matter](#), Council of Europe ‘Journalists Matter’ Campaign initiative under the Monaco Presidency (9-10 November 2026, European Youth Centre and Palais de l' Europe, Strasbourg)

Tour de table - Steps taken by member states, Information by CDMSI members

For information and discussion

- 13. Study on “Journalists in Times of Conflict: a Shared Duty to Protect under the European Convention on Human Rights”**

Presentation by the Secretariat and discussion

To be taken note by the CDMSI

- 14. Appointment of a CDMSI representative to the [Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions \(BIO-ALN\)](#)**

For decision

Lunch Break 12:30-14:00

*Journalism Excellence Awards “Ethical reporting on Roma and Travellers
and combating antigypsyism through the media”*

*Presented by the Secretary General and the CM Presidency of Monaco
In front of the Hemicycle*

Afternoon session 14:00 - 17:00
Room G02, Agora, Strasbourg, and online via zoom

15. Exchange of views with Gilles Marchand, Director, Media & Philanthropy Initiative ([IMP](#))

Study "[Towards a Charter of Philanthropic Engagement in the Media Sector](#)"

For information and discussion

16. Exchange of views with Gabriel Revel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe

[Presidency of Monaco of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe](#) (May – November 2026)

For information and discussion

17. Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the [European Platform of Regulatory Authorities \(EPRA\)](#)

Information provided by **Emmanuelle Machet**, Head of the EPRA Secretariat

For information and discussion

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break

18. Future work of the CDMSI/future terms of reference

For discussion

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

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

For information and discussion

20. [Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists](#)

Annual Report [Europe Press Freedom Report "On the tipping point: Press Freedom 2025"](#)

Presentation by **Joanna Szymanska** (Article 19), representative of the Platform's [Partner Organisations](#)

For information and discussion

19 JUNE – Morning session 09:30 - 12:30 Room G02, Agora, Strasbourg, and online via zoom	
21. Intervention by Matjaž Gruden , Director, Directorate for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity	
22. Request for observer status by the Global Media Registry	
Presentation by Olaf Steenfadt , Founder and Managing Director	
<i>For discussion and decision</i>	
23. Exchange of views with PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	
Presentation by Tatiana Termacic , Head of Secretariat, and Francisco Cabrera , Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media	
Resolution 2654 (2026) on Copyright enforcement in the artificial intelligence environment	
Motion for a resolution on A new European Convention on Freedom of the Media	
<i>For information and discussion</i>	
24. Exchange of views with Camille Grenier, Executive Director of the Forum on Information and Democracy	
Concept note “The International Coordination Group on Information Integrity”	
<i>For information and discussion</i>	
<i>Coffee break 10:40 - 11:00</i>	
25. Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the European Audiovisual Observatory	
Information provided by Maja Cappello , Head of Department for Legal Information and Acting Executive Director, European Audiovisual Observatory	
<i>For information and discussion</i>	
26. Participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI	
<i>Information by the Secretariat and CDMSI Plenary members</i>	
27. Any other business	
Date and place of next meeting	

List of participants / Liste de participant.e.s

Total number of participants: 95/ *Nombre total des participants : 95*

Gender distribution: 45 men (47 %) / 50 women (53 %) / *Parité entre hommes : 45 hommes (47 %) / 50 femmes (53 %)*

70 participants on place / 25 participants online / *70 participants sur place / 25 participants en ligne*

MEMBERS/MEMBRES

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE	Matthias TRAIMER Head of Department Media Affairs, Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport / <i>Chef du département des affaires médiatiques, ministère fédéral du Logement, des Arts, de la Culture, des Médias et des Sports</i>
AZERBAIJIAN / AZERBAÏDJAN	Rasim BAGHIROV Director of the International Relations and Document Processing Department, Media Development Agency / <i>Chef du Service « Relations internationales et traitement des documents », Agence de développement des médias</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>
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, Press and Information Office (PIO), Ministry of Interior / <i>Attaché de presse et d'information, Bureau de presse et d'information (PIO), ministère de l'Intérieur</i>
ESTONIA/ESTONIE	Andres JOESAAR Advisor (media), Ministry of Culture / <i>Conseiller, ministère de la Culture</i>
FRANCE	Noemie DANOS Policy Officer – State Aid and the Internal Market / <i>Chargée de mission - Aides d'Etat et marché intérieur</i> Mathieu PRADIER Directorate for Cultural Diplomacy, Sub-Directorate for Culture and Media - Media and Cinema Division, Copyright, Audiovisual Regulation / <i>Direction de la diplomatie culturelle</i>

	<i>Sous-direction de la culture et des médias - Pôle médias et cinéma</i> <i>Droit d'auteur, régulation audiovisuelle</i>
GEORGIA/GEORGIE	Ivane MAKHARADZE Commissioner, Communications Commission of Georgia / <i>Commissaire, Commission des communications de Géorgie</i>
GERMANY/ALLEMAGNE	David NEJJAR Policy Officer, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Berlin / <i>Chargé de mission, Commissaire du gouvernement fédéral à la culture et aux médias, Berlin</i> Niklas GRAETSCH State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate, European and International Cooperation / <i>Chancellerie d'État de Rhénanie-Palatinat, coopération européenne et internationale</i>
GREECE/GRECE	Aikaterini POLYZOU (Chair / Présidente) Head of Department for Audiovisual Media & Internet, Presidency of the Government, Secretariat General for Communication and Media / <i>Cheffe du département des médias audiovisuels et de l'Internet, Présidence du gouvernement, Secrétariat général à la communication et aux médias</i> Konstantina PLATI Permanent Representation of Greece to the Council of Europe / <i>Répresentation permanente de la Grèce auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</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>
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/LETONIE	Gunta LIDAKA Head of the Media Policy Unit, Ministry of Culture / <i>Cheffe de l'unité chargée de la politique des médias, 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>

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	Gabriel REVEL Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representation of Monaco to the Council of Europe / <i>Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentation permanente de Monaco auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</i> 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>
MONTENEGRO	Vukasin PUDAR Media Advisor, Ministry of Public Service, digital society and media / <i>Conseiller en relations avec les médias, ministère de la Fonction publique, de la Société numérique et des Médias</i>
NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS	Inge WELBERGEN 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 / NORVÈGE	Louisa BORRESEN Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the Council of Europe / <i>Représentante permanente adjointe de la Norvège auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</i> Siw ELLEFSEN Senior Media Adviser / <i>Conseillère média senior</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> Karol ZGODKA Director of the Department of the Strategy of Culture and Media / <i>Directeur, Service de la stratégie culturelle et des médias</i>
PORTUGAL	Charlotte SIMÕES Policy Officer, Task Force on Media Public Policies (<i>Estrutura de Missão para a Comunicação Social #PortugalMediaLab</i>), Ministry of the Presidency / <i>Chargée de mission, Groupe de travail sur les politiques publiques relatives aux médias (Estrutura de Missão para a Comunicação Social #PortugalMediaLab), ministère de la Présidence</i>

ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	Marius JITEA Senior Public Manager at the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government / <i>Responsable public senior au Secrétariat général du gouvernement roumain</i>
SERBIA/SERBIE	Maja ZARIC 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>
SLOVAKIA/SLOVAQUIE	Zeljko Martyn SAMPOR National coordinator on protection of journalists and media pluralism policies / <i>Coordinateur national chargé de la protection des journalistes et des politiques en faveur du pluralisme des médias</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 / ESPAGNE	Rodrigo DIAZ Deputy directorate general for the regulation of audiovisual communication services / <i>Direction générale adjointe chargée de la réglementation des services de communication audiovisuelle</i> Gonzalo GONZALEZ SUEIRAS Spanish Central Administration / <i>Administration centrale espagnole</i>
SWEDEN / SUEDE	Rebecca PARMAN Adviser at the Swedish Ministry of Culture / <i>Conseiller au ministère suédois de la Culture</i>
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	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>
TÜRKIYE	Yusuf DEMİRTAŞ Head of Department (Acting)- International Relations Department, Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK), / <i>Chef de département (par intérim) - Département des relations internationales, Conseil suprême de la radio et de la télévision (RTUK)</i> Gülşah EKMEKÇİ Expert - Department of Press and Publications, Presidency of The Republic of Türkiye, Directorate of Communications / <i>Experte – Service de la presse et des publications, Présidence de la République de Türkiye, Direction de la communication</i>
UKRAINE	Vladyslav VERBYLO Expert, National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine / <i>Expert, Conseil national de la télévision et de la radiodiffusion d'Ukraine</i>

	Maryna GUMENNA Chief specialist, International Cooperation Division, National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting / <i>Spécialiste en chef, Division de la coopération internationale, Conseil national de la télévision et de la radiodiffusion d'Ukraine</i>
UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI	Gillian MURTAGH Senior Policy Adviser, International Media, Media and International / <i>Conseiller principal en matière de politique internationale, Médias internationaux</i> Emma BROADHURST Head of Media and Trust / <i>Cheffe du service Médias et confiance</i> Lottie BULMER UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology / <i>Ministère britannique des Sciences, de l'Innovation et de la Technologie</i> Pooja LAKHANI UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology / <i>Ministère britannique des Sciences, de l'Innovation et de la Technologie</i>

OBSERVERS STATES / ÉTATS OBSERVATEURS

HOLY SEE/SAINT SIEGE	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>
MOROCCO/MAROC	EI Mahdi AROUSSI IDRISI 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> Chanaz EL AKRICHI 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>

OBSERVERS TO THE CDMSI / OBSERVATEURS AUPRES DU CDMSI

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS / ASSOCIATION DES JOURNALISTES EUROPÉENS	Irina NEDEVA Vice President / <i>Vice-présidente</i> William HORSLEY
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	UK chairman and Media Freedom Representative / <i>Président pour le Royaume-Uni et représentant pour la liberté des médias</i>
ARTICLE 19	Joanna SZYMANSKA Head of programmes and strategy for Europe/ <i>Responsable des programmes et de la stratégie pour l'Europe</i>
EUROPEAN COMMISSION/ COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE	Raffaele DI GIOVANNI BEZZI Legal and Policy officer, Audiovisual and Media Policy Unit, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) / <i>Chargé des affaires juridiques et des politiques, Unité Politique audiovisuelle et médias, Direction générale des réseaux de communication, du contenu et des technologies (DG CONNECT)</i> Olga GLINICKA Legal and Policy Officer, DSA Inforcement / <i>Responsable juridique et politique, Application du Loi sur les services numériques</i>

OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION (EBU) / UNION EUROPÉENNE DE RADIO- TELEVISION (UER)	Simona MARTORELLI Director International Relations and European affairs/ vice-Chairman EBU Legal and Policy Committee / <i>Directrice des relations internationales et des affaires européennes / Vice-président du Comité juridique et politique de l'UER</i> Sophia WISTEHUD Legal Counsel / <i>Conseillère juridique</i>
EUROPEAN DIGITAL MEDIA OBSERVATORY (EDMO) / OBSERVATOIRE EUROPÉEN DES MÉDIAS NUMÉRIQUES	Giacomo MAZZONE Member of the Advisory board of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO), Expert of the EAC High Level panel in charge of digital literacy / <i>Membre du conseil consultatif de l'Observatoire européen des médias numériques (EDMO), expert du panel de haut niveau de l'EAC en charge de la culture numérique</i>
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE / INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE EUROPÉEN	Iva NENADIC Assistant Professor in Journalism, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb; Research Fellow at the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute, Florence / <i>Professeure adjoint de journalisme, Faculté de sciences politiques de l'université de Zagreb ; Chercheur au Centre pour le pluralisme et la liberté des médias de l'Institut universitaire européen, Florence</i>
FORUM OF INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY / FORUM INFORMATION & DÉMOCRATIE	Camille GRENIER Executive Director / <i>Directeur exécutif</i>

GLOBAL MEDIA REGISTRY	Olaf STEENFADT Founder and Managing Director / <i>Fondateur et directeur général</i>
INFORMATION INTEGRITY INITIATIVE	Julie POSETTI PhD, Director of the Information Integrity Initiative, Professor of Journalism and Chair of the Centre for Journalism and Democracy at City St George's, University of London / <i>Directrice de l'« Information Integrity Initiative », professeure de journalisme et directrice du Centre pour le journalisme et la démocratie à City St George's, Université de Londres</i>
INTERNET RIGHTS AND PRINCIPLES COALITION (IRPC) STEERING COMMITTEE / COMITÉ DE PILOTAGE DE LA COALITION POUR LES DROITS ET PRINCIPES DE L'INTERNET (IRPC)	Minda MOREIRA Steering Committee member / <i>Membre du comité de pilotage</i>
LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE	Jennifer JACKSON-PREECE Associate Professor of Nationalism, European Institute & Department of International Relations / <i>Maître de conférences en nationalisme, Institut européen et Département des relations internationales</i>
MEDIA AND JOURNALISM RESEARCH CENTRE / CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR LES MÉDIAS ET LE JOURNALISME	Marius DRAGOMIR Director / <i>directeur</i>
MEDIA & PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE / INITIATIVE MÉDIA ET PHILANTHROPIE	Gilles MARCHAND Director / <i>Directeur</i>
PERSVEILIG	Isabella PRINS Project Coordinator / <i>Coordinatrice des projets</i>
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTEDAM/ UNIVERSITÉ D'AMSTERDAM	Tarlach MCGONAGLE Professor of Media Law and Information Society, Leiden University, Associate Professor, Institute for Information Law (IViR), University of Amsterdam
	Jessikka ARO Finnish Investigative Journalist and Author / <i>Journaliste d'investigation et autrice finlandaise</i>

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH / CONSEIL	Clara FOLLER
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<i>CONSULTATIF SUR LA JEUNESSE</i>	German National Committee for International Youth Work / <i>Comité national allemand pour l'action internationale en faveur de la jeunesse</i>
DATA PROTECTION UNIT / <i>UNITÉ DE PROTECTION DES DONNÉES</i>	Kristian BARTHOLIN Head of Unit / <i>Chef d'unité</i>
EUROPEAN AUDIO-VISUAL OBSERVATORY / <i>OBSERVATOIRE EUROPEEN DE L'AUDIOVISUEL</i>	Maja CAPPELLO Head of Department for Legal Information and Acting Executive Director / <i>Cheffe du service pour l'information juridique et directrice exécutive par intérim</i> Sophie VALAIS Deputy Head of department for Legal Information, European Audiovisual Observatory / <i>Cheffe adjoints du service d'information juridique, Observatoire européen de l'audiovisuel</i> Diego DE LA VEGA Senior Analyst / <i>Analyste senior</i> Eric MUNCH Legal Analyst / <i>Analyste juridique</i>
EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF REGULATORY AUTHORITIES (EPRA)/ <i>LA PLATE-FORME EUROPÉENNE DES INSTANCES DE RÉGULATION</i>	Emmanuelle MACHET Head of EPRA Secretariat / <i>Cheffe du secrétariat de l'EPRA</i> Claire MARCHAL Secretariat / <i>Secrétariat</i>
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON SAFEGUARDING MEDIA PLURALISM IN THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT (MSI-EPLU) / <i>COMITÉ D'EXPERTS SUR LA SAUVEGARDE DU PLURALISME DES MÉDIAS DANS L'ENVIRONNEMENT EN LIGNE</i>	Elda BROGI Co-rapporteur Damina TAMBINI Co-rapporteur
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON MEDIA REGULATORS IN A PLATFORM-BASED ENVIRONMENT (MSI-EREG) / <i>COMITÉ D'EXPERTS SUR LES RÉGULATEURS DES MÉDIAS DANS UN ENVIRONNEMENT BASÉ SUR LES PLATEFORMES</i>	Stephanie COMEY Chair / <i>Présidente</i>

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY / ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE	Tatiana TERMACIC Head of Secretariat Francisco CABRERA Secretariat of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media/ <i>Commission de la culture, de la science, de l'éducation et des médias</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

Matjaz GRUDEN Director, Directorate for Democracy / <i>Directeur, Direction de la Démocratie</i>
Roberto OLLA Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department / <i>Chef du service des institutions démocratiques et des libertés</i>
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>
Giulia LUCHESE Co- Secretary to the CDMSI/ <i>Co-secrétaire du CDMSI</i>
Cesare PITEA Secretary to the Committee of Experts on Safeguarding Media Pluralism in the Online Environment (MSI-ePLU) / <i>Secrétaire du Comité d'experts sur la sauvegarde du pluralisme des médias dans l'environnement en ligne (MSI-ePLU)</i>
Rodica CIOCHINA Programme Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / <i>Chargée de programme, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI</i>
Elena BRODEALA Secretary to the Committee of Experts on Media Regulators in a Platform-based Environment (MSI-eREG) / <i>Secrétaire du Comité d'experts sur les régulateurs des médias dans un environnement base sur les plateformes (MSI-eREG)</i>
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>
Adrian EVTUHOVICI Platform for the Safety of Journalists / <i>Plateforme pour la sécurité des journalistes</i>

Boris LAZOV

Programme Manager, Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression / *Chargé de programme, Division pour la coopération en matière de liberté d'expression*

Irina TOMOVA

Assistant, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / *Assistante, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI*

Ketevan SAKHELASHVILI

Assistant, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / *Assistante, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI*

INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES:

Célia RAWINSKI

Jean-Jacques PEDUSSAUD

Luke TILDEN