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## 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, 14-16 June 2023

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

Abridged report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting

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#### Meeting details

The Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) held its 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Strasbourg on 14-15 June 2023 with Mr Taavo Lumiste (Estonia) as Chair.

The agenda of the meeting is in Appendix 1. The full report of the meeting including the list of participants is available on the [CDMSI website](#).

#### List of items for decision by the Committee of Ministers

Take note of the abridged report of the 23<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (14-15 June 2023).

#### List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The CDMSI:

Regarding the standard-setting activities:

- **took note** of the third meeting reports welcomed the progress made, **discussed and made suggestions** on the draft deliverables currently being finalised by its three committees of experts:
  - o Guidelines on the Responsible Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Journalism and the Good practices for Sustainable Media Financing, under preparation by the [Committee of Experts on Increasing Media Resilience \(MSI-RES\)](#);
  - o Draft Guidance Note on Countering the Spread of Online Mis- and Disinformation through Fact-checking and Platform Design Solutions in a Human Rights Compliant Manner, under preparation by the [Committee of experts on the Integrity of Online Information \(MSI-INF\)](#);
  - o Draft Recommendation on Countering the Use of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), under preparation by the [Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation \(MSI-SLP\)](#)
  
- **agreed to submit**, as soon as possible, **to public consultation** ahead of the last meeting of the MSI-SLP, the draft Recommendation on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

Regarding the follow-up to the CDMSI's previous work and the implementation of recent standard-setting instruments:

- **welcomed** the presentations by Mr Peter Noorlander, expert, Start-up Director, Reporters Shield, on measures that have been taken by member states to implement the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors](#), and by Prof. Matthias Kettemann, expert, Professor of Innovation, Theory and Philosophy of Law, University of Innsbruck on measures taken by member states to implement the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries](#), and **discussed** ensuing conclusions; both presentations were based on the input provided by CDMSI members;
- **took note** of promotion and other follow-up measures taken by the secretariat in relation to the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2022\)16 on combating hate speech](#), including a recent new webpage of the Council of Europe: '[Combating Hate Speech](#)'.

Regarding the forthcoming Council of Europe [Campaign for the safety of journalists](#)

- **took note** of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the launch of the Campaign in Riga on 5 October 2023, under the Latvian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, and discussed related preparations, including the appointment of future [National Focal Points](#) and the [National Committees](#) for the campaign and **exchanged on** existing national initiatives on the protection of journalists, in the light of the workshop on the safety of journalists that took place on 1-2 June 2023 in Strasbourg.

Regarding the possible modernisation of the **European Convention on Transfrontier Television (ECTT)**;

- **discussed** the outcomes of the work of the dedicated reflection group and the replies to the questionnaire distributed to the national regulatory authorities by the EPRA . In the light of the input received, agreed **1/ to keep the topic on the CDMSI agenda**, including that of the next plenary meeting, and **2/ to encourage members and observers to report on any relevant developments** in the area of transfrontier provision of audio-visual media services with a view to enabling them to **reassess, as appropriate, the need and member states' support for possible regulatory intervention in this area.**

Regarding the future work of the CDMSI:

- **held an exchange of views** on the proposals for the main future tasks of the committee and its envisaged two new expert committees: a committee expected to work on online safety and empowerment of content creators and users and a second committee to work on the implications of generative Artificial Intelligence for freedom of expression, as well as other ways to engage in additional proposals under the forthcoming reference period ( 2024-2027); **took note** of the calendar for the discussion and approval by the Committee of Ministers of the future terms of reference of intergovernmental committees.

Regarding digital governance:

- **welcomed** the information provided by Mr Thomas Schneider, Chair of the [CAI](#), who presented the recent work of the CAI related to the drafting and ongoing negotiations related to the forthcoming **Convention on Artificial Intelligence**;
- **took note** of the latest developments regarding the Council of Europe's Digital Partnership (recent and planned exchanges and cooperation with partners, in particular IEEE and LEGO).

Moreover, the CDMSI:

- **received update** on recent assistance and cooperation activities in the field of freedom of expression, including in respect of Ukraine, by Mr Cesare Pitea
- **exchanged views** with Mr Roberto Fasino, Head of the Secretariat of the PACE [Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#), who provided information about the **ongoing relevant work** of this Committee and ways for the PACE to contribute to the forthcoming Campaign for the safety of journalists;

Furthermore, the CDMSI:

- **took note of and exchanged on** the EU press freedom report "Fragile Progress" published by the [Committee to protect journalists](#) (CPJ), presented by Mr Tom Gibson, CPJ's lead advocate in Brussels;

Moreover, the CDMSI:

- **held an exchange of views** of Mr Ahmet-Murat Kiliç, Head of the Digital Transformation and E-learning Unit, Education Department on the importance of "Advancing education through a human-rights based digital transformation";
- **exchanged views** with Ms Sophie Valais, Deputy Head of Department for Legal Information of the [European Audiovisual Observatory](#), who referred to the update of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) database, the latest legal publications and events of the European Audiovisual Observatory, and **discussed** with Ms Emmanuelle Machet, Head of the [EPRA](#) Secretariat, on the topics of media information for public good and the future of content delivery;
- **exchanged** with Mr Ricardo Gutiérrez, Secretary General of the European Federation of Journalists and Mr William Horsley, who represents the Association of European Journalists and is also international Director of the Centre for Freedom of the Media, University of Sheffield, on **recent developments in the operation of the Council of Europe [Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists](#)**, in particular in relation to forthcoming systemic alerts, as well as on avenues for cooperation in the framework of the forthcoming Campaign for the Safety of Journalists;
- **had a tour de table** on recent country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression and took note of the [Recommendations of the Nordic Think Tank for Tech and Democracy](#);

Regarding other business:

- **agreed** to hold its next plenary meeting on 29 November - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 in Strasbourg.

The CDMSI agreed in writing to adopt the present abridged meeting report.

## APPENDIX 1

### AGENDA

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

#### **3. Ongoing standard setting work**

3.1. Committee of Experts on Increasing Media Resilience (MSI-RES)

3.2. Committee of experts on the Integrity of Online Information (MSI-INF)

3.3. Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (MSI-SLP)

#### **4. Future work of the CDMSI/future terms of reference**

#### **5. Digital Governance**

5.1. Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence - Information by Mr Thomas Schneider, Chair of the CAI, and the secretariat

5.2. Council of Europe Digital Partnership Digital Partnership (coe.int) - Participation in the International Fora on Digital Governance - Information by Ms Rodica Ciochina, Programme Advisor, Media and Internet Division

#### **6. EU press freedom report "Fragile Progress" published by the Committee to protect journalists (CPJ) - Presentation by Tom Gibson, CPJ's lead advocate in Brussels**

#### **7. Council of Europe's work of relevance for the CDMSI - latest developments - Exchange of views with Mr Roberto Fasino, Head of the Secretariat of the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media**

#### **8. Follow-up to the CDMSI's previous work. Implementation of recent standard-setting instruments**

##### **8.1. Reports based on member states' answers to questionnaires:**

- Measures taken to implement Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors - Presentation by Mr Peter Noorlander, expert, Start-up Director, Reporters Shield
- Measures taken to implement Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries -

Presentation by Prof. Matthias Kettemann, expert, Professor of Innovation, Theory and Philosophy of Law, University of Innsbruck

**8.2. Follow-up to implementation of CM/Rec(2022)16 on combating hate speech**

**9. Council of Europe Cooperation activities on freedom of expression**

**10. Work progress related to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (ECTT) -**

Report on the outcomes of the work of the reflection group on the ECTT and related consultations

**11. Council of Europe's work of relevance for the CDMSI - latest developments (continued)**

Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the European Audiovisual Observatory, Ms Sophie Valais, Deputy Head of Department for Legal Information; Ms Emmanuelle Machet, Head of the EPRA Secretariat

**12. Council of Europe Campaign on the protection of journalists' safety**

- Launch of the Campaign
- National focal points and national committees for the safety of journalists
- National initiatives on the protection of journalists' safety

**13. Exchange with partners of the platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists - discussion, Mr Riccardo Gutiérrez, Mr William Horsley**

**14. Recent country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression - Tour de table**

**15. Exchange of view with Mr Ahmet-Murat Kiliç, Head of the Digital Transformation and E-learning Unit, Education Department**

**16. Participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI**

**17. Other business**

**18. Approval of the abridged meeting report**