

Bureau of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society

**29th meeting
31 October 2025**

Online

REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting

The Bureau members met online. The gender distribution was 10 women (71%) and 4 men (29%). The list of participants appears in Appendix 1.

Irena Guidikova, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, and Artemiza Tatiana-Chisca, Secretary to the CDMSI and Head of the Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe, welcomed the members of the Bureau and congratulated the progress made on the deliverables under the CDMSI.

2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

The Bureau members adopted the agenda of the meeting, in Appendix 2.

3. Ongoing standard-setting work

3.1. Expert committees of the CDMSI - work progress

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

Cesare Pitea, the Secretary of the MSI-eSEC informed about the outcome of the fourth meeting of the Committee of Experts, held on 21-22 October 2025 in Strasbourg. Chaired by Nicole Stellou (Greece), members and participants discussed paragraph-by-paragraph the text of the draft Recommendation, especially in light of the comments by the European Commission, and provided feedback on the draft Explanatory Memorandum. The discussion focused in particular on comments by the European Commission, aimed at ensuring compatibility of the document with the approach of the Digital Services Act. The MSI-eSEC finalised the draft Recommendation on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators and agreed on a timeline for finalising the draft Explanatory Memorandum in line with inputs from the discussion and written comments. It agreed to send the draft recommendation and its draft explanatory memorandum to the members of the CDMSI for their discussion and possible approval at the next Plenary meeting, before its submission to the Committee of Ministers for final adoption.

The Bureau members were also informed about the outcome of the public consultation phase held during the summer and exchanged on the ongoing consultations, under the impulse of the European Commission, towards a common position of EU Member States and its implications for the CDMSI decisions on its draft instruments (to be approved/adopted during the December

plenary meetings).

3.1.2. Committee of Experts on the implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression ([MSI-AI](#))

Giulia Lucchese, the Secretary of the MSI-AI, informed about the outcome of the fourth meeting of the Committee of Experts, held on 15-16 October 2025 in Strasbourg. Chaired by Andrin Eichin (Switzerland), during their last meeting members and participants discussed the draft Guidance Note paragraph-by-paragraph, focusing the discussions on outstanding issues and possible text improvements. The MSI-AI finalised the draft Guidance Note on the Implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression, which it was tasked to deliver by the end of 2025, and agreed to send the document to the members of the CDMSI for their discussion and possible adoption at the next Plenary meeting.

The Bureau members were also informed about the outcome of the public consultation phase held during the summer. The Secretariat presented relevant activities aimed at ensuring appropriate follow-up, increasing visibility and strengthening understanding of the document.

3.2. Work progress related to the further expected deliverables under [CDMSI Terms of Reference](#)

The Secretariat provided information on the progress made on the other deliverables under the CDMSI Terms of Reference for 2024-2025.

3.2.1. Resisting disinformation: ten building blocks to strengthen information integrity

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress on the document. In particular, it reported about a [workshop](#), held at the Council of Europe office in Paris on 4 July 2025, to discuss the first draft, with the participation of CDMSI members, as well as eleven experts from academia, civil society, and policy-making, and bring together a wide range of expertise and perspectives. The Bureau members were informed that, in addition to the workshop discussions, several experts also submitted written comments. Contributions were also received from nine member states, which were carefully reviewed and integrated by the experts. The document will be submitted to the CDMSI in view of its possible adoption at the next Plenary meeting.

3.2.2. Guidelines for national media and information literacy (MIL) strategies – practical steps and indicators

The Bureau members took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the work undertaken on the development of *MIL Guidelines*, which were finalised with the support of a new expert bringing a broader policy perspective on MIL. An online workshop to discuss the draft was held on 29 September 2025, with the participation of CDMSI members and government representatives, as well as seven experts from academia, civil society, and policymaking. Additional written contributions were received from participants and in-house relevant sectors, including the Gender Equality Division. The final document includes detailed guidance on the topic, an explanatory report, a set of practical indicators, and a list of useful sources and resources. It will be presented for discussion and possible adoption at the next CDMSI Plenary meeting.

3.2.3. Feasibility study on immersive realities applications and their implication from freedom of expression

The Secretariat updated the Bureau about the progress on the *Feasibility study on the challenges and benefits of immersive realities (XR) for freedom of expression*. They were informed about the outcome of a dedicated [workshop](#), following which the document was to be revised to integrate relevant insights provided by participants, including feedback received by

colleagues of the European Court of Human Rights. The Bureau took note that scope of the study will also be to identify potential main areas for further action by the CDMSI. The Secretariat shared information regarding a first planned follow-up activity, namely a conference on the topic, to be organised in co-operation with the European Metaverse Research Network (EMRN) in 2026.

4. CDMSI Terms of reference for 2026-2027

The Secretariat informed that the CDMSI Terms of Reference were already preliminarily agreed at the level of the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Human Rights (GR-H), yet that a final approval by the Committee of Ministers, including on the budget, was expected by end November 2025. The Bureau members exchanged on the CDMSI Terms of Reference for the next biennium, discussed possible implications in terms of the Steering Committee's engagement on CDMSI-related issues, expressed appreciation for including experts from different bodies of the Organisation, and encouraged the Secretariat to continue keeping a multi-stakeholder approach favouring an inclusive dialogue amongst relevant stakeholders. The Secretariat confirmed that the adopted Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee will be distributed to CDMSI Plenary members without undue delay.

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

The Secretariat informed about the recent activities carried out in the framework of the Campaign under the 'Prosecution Pillar', including a [Training of Trainers](#) on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs), held in Prague on 9–10 October 2025, which brought together judicial representatives from over 20 member states. The event, paired with a public awareness initiative at the [Press Play Prague Film Festival](#), aimed at reinforcing the Campaign's holistic approach, combining institutional capacity-building with outreach to wider audiences.

The Bureau members took note of the preliminary findings of the Campaign's mid-term review report, which is to be presented at the next CDMSI Plenary meeting. The Secretariat informed about the outcome, which confirms the Campaign's value in fostering a pan-European network of co-operation among governments, journalists, and civil society, while also highlighting the persistent challenges, such as the uneven engagement among member states and the need for stronger political commitment.

The Secretariat also addressed the next stage of the Campaign, which will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of existing national structures and efforts to ensure the legacy of the Campaign's achievements. The Bureau members welcomed the planned initiative to further empower and meaningfully engage youth in the Campaign, including through a new "Youth Component", to be launched in 2026 and supported by the Monacan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The forthcoming Annual Thematic Conference will be held in Moldova on 22–23 April 2026, back-to-back with the 4th meeting of the National Focal Points.

The Bureau exchanged about relevant developments. Greece informed about the plan to organise a training on SLAPPs with the judicial institute as a follow-up to the one held in Prague in the framework of the Campaign. Bosnia and Herzegovina underlined the importance of ensuring a legacy of the Campaign after its end and provided an update on the activities undertaken at the national level by the Working Group acting as a Campaign Committee, currently working on a strategic document on journalists' safety.

6. Preparation for the 28th CDMSI Plenary meeting (3-5 December, Strasbourg) – Elections and planned exchanges of views

The Bureau took note of the upcoming elections foreseen to take place during the next CDMSI Plenary meeting, namely for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and four Bureau members as well as for the designation of seven member States' representatives for each of the two Expert

Committees, subordinated to the CDMSI and to be set up for the biennium 2026-2027. The Secretariat reminded the relevant election rules under *Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3-Consolidated on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working method](#)* and updated the Bureau members about the eligibility setting, including the importance of reaching the quorum.

The Bureau discussed the Council of Europe New Democratic Pact for Europe and agreed to reflect on how the CDMSI can contribute to address the democratic backsliding. It was agreed to hold an exchange of views amongst members during the next CDMSI Plenary meeting. The Bureau and the Secretariat discussed the planned exchange of views and priority files of the next CDMSI Plenary meeting, notably the expected adoption of the standard-setting deliverables.

7. Recent country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression and participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI (2025)

The Bureau members agreed that the item on the Plenary agenda regarding information about the country-specific developments of relevance for the CDMSI should specifically focus on measures taken at the national level to implement relevant existing standards within the mandate of the Steering Committee. The Bureau members took note of the participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI and agreed that updated information will be provided at the next Plenary meeting.

8. Any other business

The next CDMSI plenary meeting will be held on 3-5 December 2025 in Strasbourg, in the Palais de l'Europe, and online.

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in the spring of 2026, on a date to be determined.

List of participants

Bureau of the Steering Committee on Media
and Information Society
29th meeting (31 October 2025)
Online

Liste des participants

Bureau du Comité directeur sur les médias et
la société de l'information
29ème réunion (31 octobre 2025)
En ligne

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>
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE	Emir POVLAJKIC Head of Audiovisual and Media Services, Communications Regulatory Agency / <i>Chef des services audiovisuels et médias, Agence de régulation des communications</i>
ESTONIA/ESTONIE	Taavo LUMISTE Ministry of Foreign Affairs / <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</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 médias</i>
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA/ REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA	Aneta GONTA Vice-President of the Audiovisual Council of the Republic of Moldova / <i>Vice-Présidente du Conseil de l'audiovisuel de la République de Moldova</i>
PAYS-BAS/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>
SUITZERLAND/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>

Secretariat du Conseil de l'Europe

Irena GUIDIKOVA

Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department /
Cheffe du département des institutions démocratiques et des libertés

Artemiza-Tatiana CHISCA

Secretary to the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), Head of Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division /
Secrétaire du Comité Directeur Médias et Société de l'Information (CDMSI), Cheffe de la Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI

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) /
Vice-secrétaire du CDMSI, Secrétaire du Comité d'experts sur les implications de l'intelligence artificielle générative pour la liberté d'expression (MSI-AI)

Cesare PITEA

Secretary to the Committee of Experts on online safety and empowerment of content creators and users (MSI-eSEC) / *Secrétaire du Comité d'experts sur la sécurité en ligne et la responsabilisation des créateurs de contenus et des utilisateurs (MSI-eSEC)*

Rodica CIOCHINA

Programme Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division /
Chargée de programme, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI

Elena BRODEALA

Programme Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / *Chargée de programme, Division Liberté d'expression et CDMSI*

Irina TOMOVA

Assistant, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division / *Assistante, Division Médias et Internet*

AGENDA

<i>Morning session</i>
<p>1. Opening of the meeting</p> <p>Irena GUIDIKOVA, Head of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity</p>
<p>2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business</p>
<p>3. Ongoing standard setting work</p> <p>3.1 Expert committees of the CDMSI - work progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee of Experts online safety and empowerment of content creators and users (MSI-eSEC) ○ Committee of Experts on the Implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression (MSI-AI) <p>Outcomes of public consultations and presentation of final drafts.</p> <p>3.2 Work progress related to the further expected deliverables under CDMSI Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ten steps to counter disinformation - Strategy and practical tools based on existing Council of Europe standards and other instruments ○ Indicators for media and information literacy (MIL) strategies at national level ○ Feasibility study on immersive reality applications and their implications for freedom of expression <p>Outcomes of consultation workshops and presentation of final drafts.</p> <p>Information provided by the Secretariat and discussion.</p>
<p>4. CDMSI Terms of reference for 2024-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CDMSI work during the second biennium (2026-2027) <p>Update provided by the Secretariat on related adoption procedure by the Committee of Ministers. Preparatory steps for the future biennium.</p> <p>Information provided by the Secretariat and discussion.</p>
<p>5. Council of Europe ‘Journalists matter’ Campaign for the Safety of Journalists</p>

- Progress report on most recent developments and forthcoming work. Prospects for the Campaign's mid-term review – main findings and forthcoming steps
- Training of Trainers on SLAPPs for Judicial Institutes, Prague, Czechia, 9-10 October
- Steps taken by member states under the Campaign

Information provided by the Secretariat and the Bureau members and discussion.

Afternoon session

6. Preparation for the 28th CDMSI Plenary meeting (3-5 December 2025, Strasbourg)

Elections - to be held during the 28th CDMSI plenary meeting

- Forthcoming elections for the CDMSI leading organs - related rules and procedure
- Election by the CDMSI of Government representatives to new Expert Committees - necessary preparatory steps and membership criteria.

Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working method

Information provided by the Secretariat and discussion.

7. Planned exchanges of views

- European Commission – Regulation of political advertising
- Congress – Recommendation and Resolution on Foreign interference in electoral processes at local and regional levels
- EAO
- EPRA
- Cooperation on Freedom of expression Division
- CDDEM – Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy

Information provided by the Secretariat and discussion.

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

Information provided by the Bureau members.

9. Participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI (2025)

- Past:
 - [62nd EPRA Meeting](#), Yerevan, Armenia, 22-24 October
 - Transversal Reflection of the Institutional Networks of the Francophonie, OIF: *The integrity of information and democratic processes in the age of digital technology and artificial*

intelligence, Paris, 16-17 October

- EU Media Literacy Expert Group meeting, online, 13 October 2025
- [High-Level Conference: Building Democratic Resilience to Disinformation](#), Malta, 17 September
- Internet Governance Forum ([IGF](#)), Lillestrøm, Norway, 23-27 June

- Upcoming:

- [World Forum for Democracy](#), Strasbourg, 5-7 November
- Panel on “Countering misinformation in climate action” at the seminar “Equipping Youth with Skills for Climate Action: Youth Engagement and Effective Information Sharing”, Strasbourg, 11-13 November

Information provided by the Bureau members and by the Secretariat.

10. Any other business

Date and place of next meeting.