

**Bureau of the Steering Committee on
Media and Information Society**

**30th meeting
24 April 2026**

Chisinau, [Moldovan Audiovisual Council](#) and online

REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting

The Bureau was hosted by the Moldovan Audiovisual Council, in Chişinău. The gender distribution was 10 women (71%) and 4 men (29%). The list of participants appears in Appendix 1.

Aikaterini Polyzou, Chair of the CDMSI, welcomed the members of the Bureau and congratulated the progress made on the deliverables under the CDMSI, notably the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 8 April 2026, of the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2026\)4](#) on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators.

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

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

The Secretary of the Committee informed the Bureau about the first meeting of the Committee, held on 3–4 March 2026. The MSI-ePLU is tasked with elaborating a draft recommendation on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment, by the end of 2027.

The Committee elected Aneta GONTA (Republic of Moldova) as its Chair and Marko MILOSAVLJEVIĆ as its Vice-Chair. The Committee appointed Elda BROGI and Damian TAMBINI as drafting co-rapporteurs. Fenna van HAEFTEN (the Netherlands) and Konstantina BANIA were appointed as rapporteurs for gender equality, and for children's rights and youth, respectively.

Based on an expert background study prepared by Elda BROGI and Enrico ALBANESE, the Committee discussed the scope and main elements of the

deliverable. Members noted evolving challenges for media pluralism since 2018, when the Committee of Ministers adopted resolution [CM/Rec\(2018\)1](#) on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership, and stressed that new recommendations should build on valid existing principles, adapting them to the new digital information ecosystem. Special focus was given to the notion of “media”, reflecting changes in the patterns of production, distribution and consumption, while safeguarding professional and trustworthy media. The Committee agreed to structure its work around quantity, competitiveness, quality, and use of media, ensuring a technology-neutral approach and operational recommendations accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.

The Committee of Experts further agreed on the future work roadmap. The second meeting of the MSI-ePLU will be held on 8–9 September 2025 and an advanced outline of the future recommendation will be presented to the CDMSI at its 29th plenary.

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

The Secretary of the Committee informed the Bureau about the [first meeting](#) of the Committee, held on 26–27 March 2026 in Strasbourg. The MSI-eREG is tasked with preparing, by the end of 2027, a Guidance Note on media regulators in a platform-based environment.

The Committee elected Stephanie COMEY (Ireland) as its Chair and Rowena BURKE (United Kingdom) as its Vice-Chair. The Committee appointed Maida ĆULAHOVIĆ and Tanja KERŠEVAN as co-drafting rapporteurs. Michèle LEDGER and Krisztina ROZGONYI were appointed as rapporteurs for children and youth, and gender equality, respectively.

Based on an expert background study prepared by Kristina IRION and Ronan Ó FATHAIGH, the Committee discussed the scope and main elements of the deliverable. Members highlighted the impact of ‘platformisation’ and algorithmic systems on the media and information ecosystem and stressed the need to reflect the evolving notion of media regulation, building on existing Council of Europe standards. The Committee further agreed on the importance of ensuring complementarity with ongoing international and regional initiatives.

The Committee of Experts agreed on its future work roadmap. An extended outline of the Guidance Note will be prepared for discussion and initial endorsement at the 29th CDMSI Plenary meeting taking place on 17–19 June 2026. The next meeting of the MSI-eREG will take place on 14–15 September 2026.

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

The Secretariat provided information on the progress made on other deliverables under the CDMSI Terms of Reference for 2026-2027.

Regarding the **Study on how social media and other platforms shape opinion and action**, the Bureau members were informed that this deliverable should serve a dual purpose. Firstly, to offer a comprehensive overview of the current landscape platforming terms of impact of social media and other platforms on users’ opinion and action, including an analysis of available data, prevailing regulations, and relevant standards. Secondly, to provide actionable guidance and

recommendations to the Council of Europe and its member states in addressing related challenges. Two consultants will co-draft the document with the support of the Secretariat: Iva NENADIC and Melisa BASOL. An outline will be presented at the next CDMSI Plenary for information and discussion, and an experts' working session is expected to take place in the autumn.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the progress and timeline for the preparation of the **Practical Guide on building independent, sustainable and pluralistic Public Service Media (PSM)**. The Guide, currently being prepared with the support of two consultants, Tanja KERŠEVAN and Marius DRAGOMIR, aims to translate existing Council of Europe standards into practical guidance, addressing the increasingly complex challenges faced by public service media in a changing media environment. An extended outline will be submitted to the 29th CDMSI Plenary for discussion.

The Bureau further took note of the ongoing work on the **Review report on the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) on combating hate speech (in co-operation with CDADI)**. The Secretariat recalled the previous collection of good and promising practices, also jointly prepared with CDADI, and delivered in spring 2024, and highlighted the broader scope of the current deliverable which will combine desk-based research with consultation rounds at upcoming winter CDADI and CDMSI plenary meetings, and targeted interviews with selected member states. A draft structure, methodology and sources of information will be presented at the CDMSI Plenary in June. The work is undertaken by two consultants: Jennifer JACKSON-PREECE and Alexander BROWN. The revised collection is scheduled for adoption at the respective plenary meetings of the two Steering Committees in spring 2027.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the progress achieved and the timeline for the completion of **Review report on the implementation of Council of Europe standards on defamation**. Two consultants, Tarlach McGONAGLE and Dominika BYCHAWSKA, have been engaged to assist in drafting the Report. A questionnaire will be distributed to CDMSI members prior to the 29th Plenary Meeting and an expert consultation workshop will be organised in the autumn of the year 2026. Both will be conducted in co-ordination with parallel work on promising national practices for the implementation of relevant aspects of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2024\)2](#) on Countering Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs) (see point 4 below). Although focused on distinct deliverables, these two processes will be carried out in close coordination to streamline resources and avoid duplication.

4. Update on follow-up to other CDMSI deliverables

The Bureau took note and greeted the adoption of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2026\)4](#) on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators by the Committee of Ministers on 8 April 2026 at the 1556th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies. They also welcomed the promotion of the [Guidance Note on the Implications of Generative AI for Freedom of Expression](#), adopted by the CDMSI in December 2025, including at the occasion of the Committee of Ministers Informal exchange on "*Freedom of Expression and Democratic Resilience*", organised under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, on 9 April, in Strasbourg. The Secretariat informed about other awareness-raising activities to take place in the spring, such as the online webinar planned for 19 May, to launch the document to the wider public.

The Secretariat further informed the Bureau that the two policy documents adopted by the CDMSI at its 28th Plenary, namely “[Resisting Disinformation: 10 Building Blocks to Strengthen Information Integrity](#)” and “[National Media and Information Literacy Strategies: Practical Steps and Indicators](#)”, were officially launched at the [High-Level Conference on Media Literacy and Information Integrity](#) held on 20 March 2026 in Chişinău. Organised under the auspices of the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, with the support of the Audiovisual Council of Moldova, the event brought together high-level participants and speakers, including the President of the Republic of Moldova Maia SANDU and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Alain BERSET. In addition, both documents have been presented and/or highlighted in a number of other events, including the European Commission's [Media Literacy Expert Group](#), a [UN Human Rights Council side event](#) on disinformation, and a [meeting of EMIL](#), [EPRA's MIL Taskforce](#). The Bureau was also informed that follow-up will be also ensured through the [RESIST project](#).

The Secretariat provided updates regarding the [Feasibility study on immersive reality applications and their implications for freedom of expression](#), notably regarding the organisation and scope of the upcoming Conference on [Human Rights in Immersive Realities \(XR\): Freedom of Expression, Justice, Children's Rights and Well-Being](#), to be held in Strasbourg at the Palais de l'Europe, on 18-19 May. The Secretariat noted that ongoing collaboration continues with the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health ([CD-BIO](#)), carrying out relevant work in the area of common interest. The Bureau members discussed further investment in the area, stressing that future efforts should be more practical and targeted toward specific audiences. They also suggested the inclusion of sector-specific rapporteurs, notably focusing on children, youth and gender considerations, and noted the Council of Europe pioneering role in the field.

The Bureau members took note of ongoing work regarding the follow-up [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2024\)2](#) on countering Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs), notably the Compilation of promising practices at national level for the implementation of relevant aspects of the Council of Europe Recommendation. The Secretariat informed that the aim of this deliverable, to be prepared with the support of two consultants, Peter NOORLANDER and Flutura KUSARI, is to promote the exchange of information on promising practices and to constructively approach existing challenges. To this scope the CDMSI Secretariat will launch a questionnaire on both SLAPPs and defamation (see point 3.2. above). The Bureau members underscored the importance of ensuring that related work maintains an approach focused in supporting member States, rather than advocacy oriented.

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

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the European Committee on Crime Problems ([CDPC](#)) [approved](#) the Feasibility Study prepared by the Committee of Experts on FIMI (PC-FIMI). The Study was transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for consideration at the Ministerial Meeting scheduled for 14 -15 May 2026 in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova. At this meeting, it is expected that a decision will be taken regarding the process towards a future legal instrument.

Inge WELBERGEN, the appointed representative of the CDMSI to the PC-FIMI, expressed appreciation for the support received from the Secretariat and provided a summary of the discussions held during the meetings attended. She emphasised that the Study integrates important safeguards for freedom of expression in the efforts to counter FIMI and that it

adequately addresses the relevant standard-setting instruments produced under the CDMSI. The Bureau took note of the outcome, with appreciation for the integration of CDMSI's contributions. It was agreed that the Secretariat will keep the Bureau informed of further developments on this file after the Ministerial Meeting, with a view to ensuring the continued involvement of the CDMSI in the follow-up process.

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

The Bureau discussed the outcomes of the [4th Meeting](#) of National Focal Points of the Council of Europe *Journalists Matter Campaign* (22 April 2026) and of the [conference](#) *Defending Truth: Comprehensive Approaches to Journalistic Safety and Quality Journalism* (23 April 2026), held in Chişinău, under the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

The Focal Points meeting gathered representatives from over 33 member States and focused on the mid-term evaluation of the Campaign, exchanges on national developments and coordination structures, guidance on national action plans on the safety of journalists, as well as discussions with partners of the Platform to Promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists and youth representatives in the context of the upcoming [Youth facing disinformation - why journalists matter](#) initiative. Discussions also addressed the sustainability and legacy of the Campaign, including reflections and strong support expressed, from participating focal points, for ensuring the continuity of work of a permanent network of Focal Points.

The conference brought together representatives of member States, journalists, international organisations, civil society and media actors to discuss comprehensive approaches to journalist safety, quality journalism and democratic resilience, including in the context of disinformation and foreign information manipulation. The Bureau members took note of the outcomes of both events and emphasised the high quality and relevance of the discussions held.

7. Preparation for the 29th CDMSI Plenary meeting (17-19 June, Strasbourg)

The Bureau took note of the expert documents under preparation, namely the *Study on Opportunities and Risks Associated with Newsfluencers in Europe* and the *Study on Journalists in Times of Conflict: a Shared Duty to Protect under the European Convention on Human Rights*, which will be presented to the next CDMSI Plenary for the members to take note of.

The Bureau also discussed and agreed the planned thematic exchange of views and expected guests who are to be invited to the upcoming plenary meeting of the CDMSI.

The Secretariat provided an overview of the events taking place during the June CDMSI Plenary, including the [No Hate Speech Week 2026](#), in which framework the '*Journalists matter*' Campaign will organise the thematic workshop "Targeted voices: hate speech against women journalists", to be held in the morning session of the CDMSI Plenary, on 18 June.

The Bureau was also informed about the request for observer status advanced by the [Global Media Registry](#), which will be submitted for decision to the CDMSI Plenary members, in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

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

Given the exchanges already held in the framework of the Campaign's related events in Chişinău, including on country specific developments, it was agreed to share more detailed information with all CDMSI members during the June Plenary meeting.

9. Participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI (2026)

The Bureau members took note of the participation in past and upcoming events of relevance for the CDMSI and agreed that updated information will be provided at the next Plenary meeting.

10. Any other business

The next CDMSI plenary meeting will be held on 17-19 June 2026, in the premises of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and online.

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

List of participants

GREECE	Aikaterini POLYZOU (Chair / présidente) Head of Department for Audiovisual Media and Internet, Presidency of the Government / <i>Responsable du département des médias audiovisuels et de l'Internet, à la présidence du gouvernement</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>
MONACO	Serge ROBILLARD Head of Partnerships and Institutional Relations, Interministerial Delegation in charge of Digital Transition / <i>Chargé des partenariats et des relations institutionnelles, Délégation Interministérielle chargée de la Transition Numérique</i>
NETHERLANDS/PAYS-BAS	Inge WELBERGEN (Vice-Chair/ Vice-présidente) Legal officer Media, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Directorate-General of Culture and Media, Media and Creative Industries / <i>Conseiller juridique Médias, ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et des Sciences, Direction générale de la Culture et des Médias, Médias et Industries créatives</i>
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 (Vice-Chair / Vice-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>
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	Andrin EICHIN Senior Policy Advisor on online platforms, algorithms and digital policy at the Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Switzerland / <i>Conseiller politique principal sur les plateformes en ligne, les algorithmes et la politique numérique à l'Office fédéral de la communication (OFCOM), Suisse</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**

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 LUCHESE

Co- Secretary to the CDMSI, Secretary to the Committee of Experts on the Impacts of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression (MSI-AI) / *Co-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 Liberté d'expression et CDMSI*

Ketevan SAKHELASHVILI

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

AGENDA

<i>Morning session</i>	
1. Opening of the meeting	Aikaterini Polyzou, Chair of the CDMSI
2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business	
3. Standard-setting work	3.1 Expert committees of the CDMSI - work progress - o Committee of Experts on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment (MSI-ePLU) - o Committee of Experts on media regulators in a platform-based environment (MSI-eREG) 3.2 Work progress related to the further expected deliverables under CDMSI <u>Terms of reference</u> - o Study on how social media and other platforms shape opinion and action - o Practical guide on building independent, sustainable, and pluralistic public service media (PSM) - o Review report on the implementation of relevant aspects of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 on combating hate speech (in co-operation with CDADI) - o Review report on the implementation of Council of Europe standards on defamation <i>Information provided by the Secretariat and discussion.</i>

4. Update on follow-up to other CDMSI deliverables

- o [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2026\)4 on online safety and empowerment of users and content creators](#)
- o [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.
- o [“Resisting disinformation: 10 building blocks to strengthen information integrity”](#)
- o [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
- o [Feasibility study on immersive reality applications and their implications for freedom of expression](#) – Upcoming Conference on [Human Rights in Immersive Realities \(XR\): Freedom of Expression, Justice, Children’s Rights and Well-Being](#), 18-19 May, Strasbourg
- 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)

Information provided by the Secretariat and discussion.

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

Feasibility study on the possible elaboration of a Council of Europe legal instrument on foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)

Information provided by the Bureau members and the Secretariat

Afternoon session

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

- o Progress report on most recent developments and forthcoming work.
- o Outcome of the fourth meeting of the National Focal Points (22 April, Chişinău); [Defending truth - Comprehensive approaches to journalistic safety and quality journalism](#) (23 April, Chişinău)
- o Youth Facing Disinformation - Why Journalists Matter (9-10 November 2026, Youth Centre, Strasbourg)
- o Steps taken by member states under the Campaign

Information provided by the Secretariat and the Bureau members and discussion

7. Preparation for the 29th CDMSI Plenary meeting (17-19 June 2026, Strasbourg)

- o Expert documents under preparation:
 - Study on Newsfluencers
 - Study on Journalists in Times of Conflict: a Shared Duty to Protect under the European Convention on Human Rights
- o Planned exchanges of views:
 - Thematic:
 - Media and information literacy: follow-up steps in the framework of the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#)
 - Guests
 - Mr Gabriel Revel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Monaco to the Council of Europe
 - Mr Gilles Marchand, Director, Media & Philanthropy Initiative ([IMP](#))
 - [PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media](#)
 - [Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists](#) – Annual Report [Europe Press Freedom Report "On the tipping point: Press Freedom 2025"](#)
 - [Cooperation on Freedom of Expression](#)
 - [European Audiovisual Observatory](#)
 - [European Platform of Regulatory Authorities](#)
- o [No Hate Speech Week 2026](#):
 - Workshop “Targeted voices: hate speech against women journalists”
 - Journalism Excellence Awards
- o Request for observer status:
 - [Global Media Registry](#)

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 (2026)

- 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](#), 15-18 April, Perugia

- Upcoming:

- High-Level Event on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), 7 May, Brussels
- 63rd EPRA meeting, 20-22 May 2026 Tirana (Albania)
- [EuroDIG](#), 26-27 May, Brussels

Information provided by the Bureau members and by the Secretariat

10. Any other business

Date and place of next meeting.