

## ***Steering Committee on Media and Information Society – CDMSI***



Strasbourg, 1 August 2017

CDMSI(2017)013

### **CDMSI comments on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2105 (2017) “Promoting integrity in governance to tackle political corruption”**

1. The CDMSI examined with interest the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2105 (2017) “Promoting integrity in governance to tackle political corruption” and would like to welcome in particular the attention given to the role of whistleblowers in this highly topical context.

2. The CDMSI recalls the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2073 (2015) “Improving the protection of whistle-blowers” where the proposal to launch the process of negotiating a binding legal instrument in the form of a framework convention for the protection of whistleblowers was initially advanced. The CDMSI would therefore like to reiterate their position previously expressed in their comments on this Recommendation (CDMSI comments of 16 October 2015, no. CDMSI(2015)015 rev).

3. The CDMSI is of the opinion that whistleblowers’ contribution to accomplishing greater transparency and justice in society is unevenly accepted and there is a need to ensure their effective protection in national frameworks in member States. The elaboration of a Council of Europe convention in the field may be considered as an option with regard to the establishment of national frameworks setting common principles building on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and also the Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)7 on the protection of whistleblowers. The CDMSI believes that the process of launching negotiations on a binding instrument should be preceded by a wide discussion among member States as well as relevant stakeholders. The CDMSI suggests supporting such a wide discussion with a feasibility study to take stock of implementation of the above-mentioned standards and to evaluate the protection of whistleblowers in national security and intelligence services.

4. At the same time, bearing in mind that elaboration and enactment of an international legally binding instrument is necessarily a time consuming process, the CDMSI highlights the importance of implementation of immediate measures for the protection of whistleblowers. The CDMSI underlines that such measures are already provided for in Recommendations CM/Rec(2014)7 on the protection of whistleblowers, CM/Rec(2015)5 on the processing of personal data in the context of employment, CM/Rec(2016)4 on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors. Consequently the CDMSI calls for strengthening implementation of these existing important instruments.