
1455th meeting, 1st February 2023

5 Medias

5.1 Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

Abridged report of the 22nd meeting

Item to be considered by the GR-H at its meeting on 19 January 2023

Meeting details

The Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) held its 22nd meeting in Strasbourg on 7-9 December 2022 with Mr Taavo Lumiste (Estonia) as Chair.

The agenda of the meeting is included 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 22nd plenary meeting of the Steering Committee on media and Information Society (7-9 December 2022).

List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers

The CDMSI:

Regarding the standard-setting activities:

- **welcomed** the progress made, **provided further input** on draft deliverables and **took note** of the second meeting reports of its three committees of experts:
 - o The Committee of Experts on Increasing Resilience of Media - MSI-RES, tasked with developing *draft guidelines on the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in journalism*, and a *collection of good practices for sustainable media financing*; second meeting (29-30 September 2022);
 - o the Committee of Experts on the Integrity of Online Information - MSI-INF, tasked with developing a *draft guidance note on countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation through fact-checking and platform design solutions in a human rights compliant manner*; second meeting (5-6 October 2022);
 - o the Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation - MSI-SLP, developing a *draft recommendation on strategic lawsuits against public participation*; second meeting (18-19 October 2022);

- **took note** of the preliminary findings of the draft reports on the following questionnaires:
 - 1) on collecting good practices for the extension of the Implementation Guide to *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;
 - 2) on the state of implementation of *Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries*;

¹ This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers.

- **took note** of the follow-up given to the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 on combating hate speech.

Regarding the elections:

- **re-elected** for another one-year term Mr Taavo Lumiste (Estonia) as CDMSI Chair and Ms Inge Welbergen (The Netherlands) as CDMSI Vice-Chair;
- **elected** Ms Aneta Gonța (Moldova) as Bureau member of the CDMSI;
- **elected** Mr Declan Shaw (United Kingdom) and Ms Nicole-Sapfo Stellou (Greece) as members of the MSI-INF.

Regarding the future campaign on the protection of journalists' safety:

- **took note** of the state of preparations for the future Council of Europe campaign on the protection of journalists' safety; **expressed support** for the proposed way to proceed with the campaign's preparation and other related steps; **exchanged** on the existing best practices at member State level; **instructed** the Secretariat to provide further information on the designation of national focal points; **considered** holding an informal meeting to discuss the modalities of the campaign and next steps;
- **held an exchange of views** with partners of the Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists on the evolution of the Platform's work; **took note** of the innovations and refinements of the early warning and rapid response systems, and the trends emerging in the forthcoming 2022 Platform annual report; **discussed** ways forward and future engagement with the Platform's findings and recommendations; **stressed** the importance of active co-operation with/involvement of the Platform's partners in the future campaign, and **took note** of an exchange on the issue planned in the framework of the forthcoming meeting of the Platform's partners in February 2023.

Regarding the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (ECTT):

- **took note** of the exchanges held at the three meetings of the Reflection Group and, in light of the outcome of these exchanges and the discussions held at the plenary meeting, **agreed** to continue exploring the situation in member States and **to request** EPRA to facilitate further information gathering from national media regulatory authorities. This is expected to help better substantiate subsequent steps, including the possible submission of the file to the Committee of Ministers with a proposal for further action.

Regarding digital governance:

- **welcomed a discussion** with Ambassador Aloisia Wörgetter, Council of Europe Thematic Co-ordinator on Information Policy (TC-INF) and **exchanged views** on the modalities for the future activities and collaboration between the TC-INF and the CDMSI;
- **held an exchange** with Ms Camille Fischer, Privacy and Data Policy Manager for Integrity and Sensitive Data, and Mr Nicolas de Bouville, Privacy Policy Manager at Meta, regarding Meta's latest report on users' rights in terms of privacy and integrity, and **discussed** Meta's efforts to protect privacy and counter hate speech on their platform.

Regarding the developments reported by other Council of Europe bodies and entities and external partners:

- **took note of, and discussed the developments** of relevance to the CDMSI's work with:
 - o the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human rights, Ms Dunja Mijatović, on the urgency to act for the protection and safety of journalists, including women journalists and those working in conflict zones, and on the increase of other threats targeting them such as strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs);
 - o the Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Ms Cecilia Dalman Eek, on the role of local and regional media as watchdogs for grassroots democracy and the future Congress report on local and regional media;

- Executive Director of the European Audiovisual Observatory (EAO), Ms Susanne Nikoltchev and Head of Department for Legal Information, Ms Maja Cappello, on the ongoing work of the EAO in the framework of its 30-year anniversary, and with the Co-ordinator of EPRA Office Ms Emmanuelle Machet, on the latest work of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) and the common topics of interest;
- the Committee on Artificial intelligence (CAI) on the advancement of its work preparing a binding legal instrument on the development, design and application of artificial intelligence systems based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and conducive to innovation, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers;
- Deputy Head of Unit for Audiovisual and Media Services Policy at the European Commission, Mr Audrius Perkauskas, on further co-operation and synergies between the Council of Europe and the EU, particularly with regard to the European Media Freedom Act proposal (EMFA) and the Digital Services Act (DSA).

Regarding the participation in the events of interest, the CDMSI:

- **took note**, in particular, of:
 - the recent Conference on “Public service media for democracy” jointly organised by the EBU and the Council of Europe and the conclusions of the Conference;
 - the participation of the Council of Europe in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2022 held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with a number of sessions/workshops;
 - the webinar “Electronic evidence of war crimes: the role of journalists, media and social media” jointly organised by the Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists and Media Freedom and the Council of Europe.

Regarding other developments:

- **welcomed** the presentation of the recently published report on “Community media: contribution to citizen's participation” by co-author Ms Nadia Bellardi and **held a discussion** on the benefits of community media for democratic societies and the obstacles faced, along with the existing good practices in this field;
- **held a tour de table** on developments in member States in the areas of relevance to the CDMSI.

Regarding the next meeting:

- **agreed** to hold its next plenary meeting on 14-16 June 2023 in a hybrid format.

APPENDIX 1**AGENDA**

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business**
- 3. Freedom of expression in times of conflict and aggression**
- 4. Ongoing standard setting work**
 - 4.1 Committee of Experts on Increasing Media Resilience (MSI-RES)
 - 4.2 Committee of Experts on Integrity of Online Information (MSI-INF)
 - 4.3 Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (MSI-SLP)
- 5. Council of Europe's work and of other partner institutions of relevance for the CDMSI - latest developments**
 - 5.1 Relevant Council of Europe work**
 - a) Exchange of views with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatović
 - b) Exchange of views with Ms Cecilia Dalman Eek, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and co-Rapporteur on local and regional media
 - c) Presentation of the report "Community media - contributions to citizens' participation" by co-author Ms Nadia Bellardi
 - d) Exchange of views with the Secretariat of the European Audiovisual Observatory
 - 5.2 Relevant work of external partners**
 - a) Exchange of views with META
 - b) Exchange of views with Mr Audrius Perkauskas, Deputy Head of Unit, Audiovisual and Media Services Policy, European Commission
- 6. Elections – brief information point**
- 7. Elections**
 - 7.1 Election to replace two MSI-INF members**
 - 7.2 Elections for the CDMSI Bureau**
- 8. Preparations for the future Council of Europe campaign on the protection of journalists' safety**
- 9. Digital Governance**
 - 9.1 Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) - Information on latest developments in the work of the CAI – by Thomas Schneider, Chair of the CAI, and the secretariat
 - 9.2 Exchange of views with Ambassador Aloisia Wörgetter, Thematic Co-ordinator of the Council of Europe on Information Policy (TC-INF)
 - 9.3 Council of Europe participation in the IGF 2022 (28 November - 2 December 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) [Internet Governance Forum](#)
 - 9.4 Steps taken in the framework of the Digital Partnership [Digital Partnership \(coe.int\)](#)

10. **Follow-up to the CDMSI's previous work. Implementation of recent standard-setting instruments**
 - 10.1 **Reports based on related 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 of the report by Mr Peter Noorlander
 - 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 of the report by Mr Matthias Kettemann
 - 10.2 Follow-up to implementation of [CM/Rec\(2022\)16 on combating hate speech](#)
11. **Work progress related to the [European Convention on Transfrontier Television \(ECTT\)](#)**
12. **Exchange with partners of the [Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists](#)**
13. **Review of progress**
 - 13.1 Council of Europe Cooperation activities on freedom of expression
 - 13.2 Council of Europe work on data protection
14. **Recent country-specific developments in the field of freedom of expression**
15. **Participation in events of relevance for the CDMSI**
16. **Other business**
17. **Approval of the abridged meeting report**