

Concept Paper

Workshop on the Informative Treatment of the Migrants and Refugees' Crisis in Audiovisual Media

Introduction

The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacements on record. According to the UN, an unprecedented 65.6 million people worldwide have been forced to leave their homes at the end of 2016. Among them are nearly 22.5 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. The scale of what is happening cannot be underestimated. Nor can the permanent effect that this migrant and refugees crisis may leave in the world.

The Mediterranean countries are at the heart of this dramatic humanitarian crisis. The UN Migration Agency reports that 149,785 migrants and refugees risked their lives to cross the Mediterranean to enter Europe in in 2017 through 29 October. More than 2,800 died.

Against this backdrop, the role of the audiovisual media in the coverage of the crisis is being constantly scrutinized due to their fundamental role in public debate and public perception of migrants and refugees.

In the age of the digital revolution, the media faces new ways of understanding information and journalism. The digital irruption allows citizens to be increasingly informed and involved about events that occur tens of thousands of kilometers from their screens. However, it also raises challenges. Values traditionally associated with journalism, such as credibility or reliability, are often being questioned.

Being fully aware that audiovisual media play an essential role in contributing to greater understanding, acceptance and respect of human rights of migrants and refugees, the Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities met in Barcelona (November 18, 2016), adopted the "Declaration on the audiovisual treatment of migrants and refugees' crisis", expressed their willingness to encourage



audiovisual media to respect a set of guidelines when providing information on the migration and refugees' phenomenon.

In order to follow up on the Declaration, CNMC as the Vice-President of the MNRA 2018 is organizing a workshop to reflect on the challenges confronting journalists and media regulatory authorities in reporting about humanitarian crisis.

Objectives

The organization of this seminar responds, among others, to three main objectives:

- Disseminate the Guidelines among the media and stakeholders and share ideas about their practical application.
- Carry out a public reflection on the social responsibility of the media in the coverage of the crisis and how they can contribute as public actors to an objective and impartial representation.
- Discuss the role of regulatory authorities as guarantors of the principles of audiovisual media regulation, that is, the respect for human dignity and fundamental rights, taking into account the challenges pose by digital revolution.

Furthermore, this workshop has a clear civic vocation: to stimulate citizen awareness of the social responsibility media have on the construction of public opinion.

Organizational details

Date: 28 June 2018

Meeting venue: CNMC's headquarters in Barcelona (C/Bolivia, 56) 08018 – Barcelona (Spain)

Translation Spanish-English-French-Arabic



Participants

- Representatives of Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities.
- Audiovisual media.
- Civil society.
- Public administrations.
- International organizations: UNESCO, European Commission, Council of Europe, etc.

Deliverable

A report would be prepared compiling the conclusions of the workshop.

Draft Program

Workshop on the Informative Treatment of the Migrants and Refugees' Crisis in

Audiovisual Media

Barcelona, 28 June 2018

08:45 – 09:15 **REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

09:15 **WELCOME WORDS**

- Mr Josep María Guinart, Vice-President of MNRA and Member of the Board of CNMC

09:30 **SETTING THE SCENE: THE INFORMATIVE TREATMENT OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

- Key speaker: Ms Amina Lemrini, President of the High Authority for Audio-visual Communication of Morocco (HACA)
- Key speaker: Ms Lurdes Vidal, Chief Officer for Arab and Mediterranean World, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
- Key speaker: Mr Enrique Guerrero, Member of the European Parliament

10:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Visions from the two shores: are the media doing the right thing?

- Moderator/facilitator: Ramón Rovira, Director of Audiovisual Group Godó
 - o Mr Ignacio Cembrero, journalist, former El País Maghreb correspondent
 - o Ms Raffaella Cosentino, journalist, Correspondent of RAI in Sicily
 - o Ms Samira Sitail, Attached General Director at 2M TV
 - o Mr Larry Macaulay, Editor in Chief and Head of Production for Refugee Radio Network
- Open Debate

11:15 **COFFEE BREAK**



11:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

For an accurate representation of migrants and refugees on the audiovisual media

- Moderator/facilitator: Ms Anna Terrón, United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility, Former Spanish Secretary of State for Migration
 - o Ms Mirta Lourenço, Chief of Section Media Development and Society (UNESCO)
 - o Ms Silvia Grundmann, Head of Media and Internet Division, Council of Europe (CoE)
 - o Mr Driss-el-Yazami, President of the National Council for Human Rights (Morocco)
 - o Mr Frédéric Bokobza, Attached to the Director General of CSA (France)

13:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:00 **PANNEL DISCUSSION**

The role of media authorities in the defense of fundamental rights

- Moderator/facilitator: Mr Josep M^a Guinart, Vice-President of MNRA and Member of the Board of CNMC
 - o Ms Julia López de Sa, Deputy Director of Audiovisual, CNMC (Spain)
 - o Ms Rabha Zeidguy, Member of the Board of HACA (Morocco)
 - o Mr Athanasios Koutromanos, President of NCRTV (Greece)
 - o Ms Rosa Cavallaro, AGCOM (Italy)
- Open Debate

15:15 **CLOSING REMARKS**

- Mr Josep M^a Guinart i Solà, Vice-President of MNRA and Member of the Board of CNMC

15:30 **END WORKSHOP**

DECLARATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF REGULATORY AUTHORITIES ON THE INFORMATIVE TREATMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CRISIS ON THE AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA

The Member Authorities of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA), hereinafter referred to as Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities, met on 17th and 18th November 2016 in Barcelona, Spain, under the presidency of the Agency for Electronic Media of Croatia (AEM) at the invitation of the Spanish Commission for Markets and Competition (CNMC), appointed President of the network during the meeting.

Concerned about the unprecedented displacement crisis the world is facing and particularly the Mediterranean region where several million people, including refugees and migrants were displaced from their places of origin,

Recognizing that the Mediterranean is at the heart of this phenomenon, which poses new policy, social, and humanitarian challenges to Mediterranean countries and societies;

Recalling the wide variety of coverage of the ongoing refugees and migrant crisis on the audiovisual media, which sometimes portray this phenomenon from an unbalanced perspective;

Being fully aware that audiovisual media can play an essential role in contributing to greater understanding, acceptance and respect of human rights of migrants and refugees through an objective, unbiased and accurate representation of this phenomenon;

Reaffirming their willingness to give full effect to the Declaration of the MNRA on Audiovisual Content Regulation, adopted on 3rd October 2008, in Reggio Calabria, Italy.

The Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities hereby decide to adopt the present Declaration on the audiovisual treatment of migrants and refugees' crisis, founded on the global vision of the Mediterranean culture.

The Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities appreciate the efforts done by the audiovisual media on reinforcing the awareness of citizens. Within their respective legal frameworks and in compliance with their specific competences, they express their willingness to encourage audiovisual media to respect the following guidelines when providing information on the migration and refugees' phenomenon:

- Applying and respecting the following five core principles of journalism in their work: accuracy, independence, fair reporting, humanity and accountability.
- Preserving quality of information and providing in-depth analyses in order to prevent a false impression of truth and reality based on audiovisual content spread under pure urgency, spectacular or quantity criteria. Avoiding the repetitive use of stock footage which may not reflect the events reported.
- Avoiding a partial or uncompleted description of the facts, by providing context, a thorough analysis as well as a wide range of views and opinions, in order to present a complete view of these phenomena to citizens. Ensuring that migrants and refugees speak for themselves as protagonists.
- Safeguarding, when dealing with information, the common objectives of social cohesion and fight against discrimination. Fostering a proper and inclusive use of language, preventing, in particular, hate speech and racism.
- Respecting Human Rights, and particularly when dealing with information of human interest, the limits of dignity, intimacy and individual or collective identity of those affected, avoiding stereotypes, and taking into account protection of minors and their image rights.