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**Freedom of Expression and Pluralistic MediaFREX- PLUME**

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE REGIONAL EVENT:  
“EURO-MEDITERRANEAN EXCHANGES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION”**

Council of Europe  
Division of Co-operation on Freedom of Expression

The regional conference “**Euro-mediterranean exchanges on access to information**” served as a forum for sharing knowledge, discussing implementation strategies, and addressing the challenges of adhering to the Tromsø Convention standards, bringing around 30 participants from 10 countries.

The event was co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Commission for the Right of Access to Information in Morocco (Commission pour le Droit d'Accès à l'Information - CDAI) in the context of the project [“Freedom of Expression, Media Pluralism and Access to Information” \(SPV-FREXPLUME\)](#) and held in **Rabat on April 22.**

Being part of the Programme [“Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean” \(South Programme V\)](#), a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe for 2022 – 2025, the project on [“Freedom of Expression, Media Pluralism and Access to Information” \(SPV-FREXPLUME\)](#) aims to promote the Council of Europe norms and standards through various mechanisms, including awareness raising and accession processes in the Mediterranean region.

Conclusions and recommendations were formulated with the help of Tetyana Oleksiyuk, Council of Europe Expert, and agreed with the participants of this event.

**Main conclusions:**

- The domestic legislation should ensure that official information is organised, stored, and managed to facilitate easy access.
- The classification of official information should adhere to a harm-test approach.
- It is essential to ensure that Information Commissioners are independent and have enough resources to perform their duties. Information Commissioners should also cooperate with policymakers to ensure that information laws remain up-to-date, responsive to public needs, and effective in practice.



- Public bodies should adopt an openness-by-design approach to improve the quality of information and reduce the volume of requests.
- It is important to ensure that domestic legislation and practices are harmonised with the standards set forth by the Tromsø Convention.
- Developing a unified court practice is essential to consistently applying access-to-information principles. This entails establishing standardised guidelines for judges and legal professionals.
- Information Officers should effectively manage information requests and comply with access-to-information laws and be trained using a unified curriculum.
- Building capacity at all levels is crucial for ensuring effective access to the information framework.

