Committee of experts on quality journalism in the digital age (MSI-JOQ)

4th meeting, 26 September 2019, Strasbourg

Opening and agenda

1. The Committee of experts on quality journalism in the digital age (MSI-JOQ) met in Strasbourg on 26 September 2019. The meeting was opened and chaired by Ms Katharine Sarikakis. Mr Jan Kleijssen, Director of Information Society – Action against Crime, welcomed the members and participants and thanked them for their committed and engaged work on the three deliverables under their charge. Mr Kleijssen furthermore provided some information on the future activities of the Council of Europe, notably of the establishment of the intergovernmental Ad-hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) tasked with examining the feasibility and potential elements of a legal framework related to AI-development.

2. The Committee adopted the agenda (see Appendix I) without any changes. The draft annotated agenda and the list of participants appear in Appendix II and in Appendix III, respectively. Of the 21 participants, there were 12 women (57%) and 9 men (43%).

Conclusions and decisions

3. The MSI-JOQ had finalised the Draft recommendation on promoting a favourable environment for quality journalism in the digital age, after having provided comments in writing in July/August 2019, in parallel with the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI). This procedure ensued from the CDSMI’s position expressed in the 16th plenary meeting (4-6 June 2019) that in view of its maturity the text should be approved in written procedure to speed up the process and have it finalised by the end of 2019. Following a number of written comments by both the members of the MSI-JOQ and the CDMSI, the expert committee made a few minor editorial changes to the document and approved the text.

4. The MSI-JOQ further discussed the Draft study on supporting quality journalism through media and information literacy, as prepared by the rapporteurs, welcomed the study’s approach and findings, and provided a number of insightful comments. Since the draft study includes a number of valuable practices, the rapporteurs
followed up with the respective organisations and acquired more detailed information about the audience reach, budget, duration of projects and their scaleability. They revised the text, which was presented for final comments in writing and finalised by 15 November.

Any other business

5. The fourth being the last meeting of the MSI-JOQ, the members expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out by the group and emphasised its timeliness and its importance for more sustainable and trustworthy journalism. Having been informed by the Secretariat about the plans for future media- and digital governance-related activities, a number of them expressed interest in a continued cooperation with the Council of Europe.

6. The MSI-JOQ decided that the Secretariat would prepare a draft meeting report to be sent to the Chair and the Vice-Chair for consideration. Thereafter the Secretariat will send the draft report to the MSI-JOQ with a deadline of five full working days allowing for comments. In the absence of comments within the deadline, the report will be deemed adopted by the MSI-JOQ and will be transmitted to the CDMSI.
APPENDIX I

AGENDA OF THE FOURTH MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Information by the Secretariat
6. Other business
APPENDIX II

ANNOTATED AGENDA OF THE FOURTH MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Address by Mr Jan Kleijsse, Director, Information Society – Action against Crime Directorate

3. Adoption of the agenda

4. Information by the Secretariat
   Information on activities of the Council of Europe relevant to the work of MSI-JOQ, in particular on the 16th meeting of the CDMSI (Steering Committee on Media and Information Society), held on 4-6 June 2019, and the upcoming conference on quality journalism and media literacy in Slovenia

5. Discussion and finalisation of the Draft study on supporting quality journalism through media and information literacy
   [MSI-JOQ Terms of Reference] (doc MSI-JOQ(2018)10)
   The members of MSI-JOQ will be invited to examine and discuss the text of the document prepared by the rapporteurs.

6. Presentation of the Draft recommendation by the Committee of Ministers to the member states on promoting a favourable environment for quality journalism in the digital age
   [MSI-JOQ Terms of Reference] (doc MSI-JOQ(2018)08)
   The members of MSI-JOQ will be presented the text as revised following their comments and those of the members of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI).

7. Other business
APPENDIX III
List of participants

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nadia BELLARDI
Project Consultant and Media Expert specialising in Journalism, Community Media, Media Diversity, Transcultural Communication, Migration, Integration, Islam and Gender Issues

Zoran BOJAROVSKI
Media Reforms Adviser to the Prime Minister - North Macedonia - Apologised

Alexandra BORCHARDT, Vice-Chair of MSI-JOQ
Author, Speaker, Media Consultant
Senior Research Associate, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

Martina CHAPMAN
Communications Professional specialising in Media Literacy and Digital Engagement

Pierre-François DOCQUIR
Head of Media Freedom – ARTICLE 19

Olha HERASYMIUK
First Deputy Chair, National Council of Television and Broadcasting of Ukraine - Apologised

Áine KERR
COO and Co-Founder, Kinzen

Tom LAW
Gender Equality rapporteur of MSI-JOQ, Director of Campaigns and Communications – Ethical Journalism Network – Apologised

Helena MANDIĆ
Director of Broadcasting, Communications Regulatory Agency - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tarlach McGONAGLE
Senior researcher/lecturer, Institute for Information Law, Amsterdam – Ireland

Markus OERMANN
Policy Consultant, German Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Department for general issues of the media and media competency – Germany

Katharine SARIKAKIS Chair of MSI-JOQ
Professor of Communication Science (Media Industries, Media Organisation, Media Governance), Jean Monnet Chair of European Media Governance and Integration; Director at Media Governance and Industries Research Lab, Department of Communication, Vienna - Greece

Inge WELBERGEN
Senior Legal Officer Media, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science – The Netherlands
OTHER PARTICIPANTS COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBERS STATES

ITALY

Elda BROGI
Scientific coordinator, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute, Florence - Apologised

Rosa CAVALLARO
Italian Communications Authority, Audiovisual Content Directorate – Media Pluralism Unit –

ROMANIA

Valentina MIU
Coordinator MEDIA Sub-programme, Project Management Unit, Ministry of Culture and National Identity Romania, Bucharest

TURKEY

İbrahim ESER
Expert, official from Radio and Television Supreme Council

Arif FIRTINA
Member of the Radio and Television Supreme Council

Zübeyr ŞENGÜL
Expert, official from Radio and Television Supreme Council

Taha YÜCEL
Member of the Supreme Council

UNITED KINGDOM

Maria DONDE
Head of International Content Policy, Office of Communication (OFCOM)

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

David FRIGGIERI
Legal and Policy Officer, audio visual and Media Services Policy Unit, DG CNECT

UNESCO

Adeline HULIN
Project Officer, Freedom of Expression and Media Development

NON-MEMBER STATES

MOROCCO

El Mahdi AROUSSI IDRİSSI
Director of Legal Studies, High Authority for Audio-visual Communication
Chanaz EL AKRICHI
Head of Division of Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Communication, Department of Communication

Khatouri MERIEM
Director of Studies and Media Development, Ministry of Culture and Communication, Department of Communication

COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT

Jan KLEIJSSEN
Director of Information Society - Action against Crime
Twitter: @JKleijssen @CoE_HRightsRLaw

Patrick PENNINCKX
Head of Information Society Department

Artemiza-Tatiana CHISCA
Head of Media and Internet Division, Information Society Department

Urška UMEK
Secretary of MSI-JOQ Committee, Head of Media Unit, Media and Internet Division, Information Society Department

Dominique WULFRAN
Assistant, Media and Internet Division, Information Society Department

INTERPRETERS

Cynera JAFFREY
Luke TILDEN
Katia DI STEFANO