

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON MEDIA ENVIRONMENT AND REFORM (MSI-REF)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Type of committee: Subordinate body

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021**

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME
<p>Pillar: Human Rights Programme: Effective ECHR implementation Sub-programme: Freedom of expression, media and data protection</p>
SPECIFIC TASKS
<p>(i) Prepare a draft recommendation by the Committee of Ministers to member States with guiding principles for media and communication governance in order to address the shift from established channels to social networks and of related risks (manipulation of public opinion, lack of public trust, information disorder) with a view to ensuring consistency of relevant laws and policies with Council of Europe standards on the right to freedom of expression and information.</p> <p>(ii) Prepare a draft recommendation by the Committee of Ministers to member States on election communication and media coverage of electoral campaigns.</p> <p>(iii) Prepare a guidance note on regulatory/policy requirements, compatible with freedom of expression and information, responding to users' needs and technical possibilities related to the prioritisation of public interest content on relevant social and search platforms and other news aggregators.</p>
COMPOSITION
<p>Members: The Committee shall be composed of 13 members, comprising seven member States' representatives, designated by the CDMSI, and six independent experts, appointed by the Secretary General with recognised expertise in the fields of freedom of expression and media policy online and off-line.</p> <p>The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these 13 members.</p> <p>Other member States may designate representatives without defrayal of expenses.</p> <p>Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.</p>
<p>Participants: The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Union (including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)); - Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America; - European Audiovisual Observatory; - European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG); - Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); - UN Agencies (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – UNESCO); - representatives of civil society, academic communities and media organisations.
<p>Observers: The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities.
WORKING METHODS
<p>Plenary meetings: 13 members, 2 meetings in 2020, 2 days 13 members, 2 meetings in 2021, 2 days</p> <p>The Committee will appoint a Gender Equality Rapporteur from amongst its members.</p> <p>The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.</p> <p>Whenever appropriate, it will prioritise environmentally sound working methods, such as virtual meetings facilitated by information technology and written consultations.</p>

BUDGETARY INFORMATION*

	Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €K	Bureau €K	Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2020	2	2	13	31.9	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B
2021	2	2	13	31.9	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B

*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of the 2020 standard costs.