

**CM(2025)131-addfinal - [1543/11.1] Programme and Budget 2024-2027 –2nd biennium 2026-2027 –
Revised Terms of Reference of Intergovernmental Structures**

**Terms of reference of the
Committee of Experts on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment (MSI-ePLU)**

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\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Subordinate body

Duration: 1 January 2026 - 31 December 2027

Programme: Anchoring democratic values in European societies

Sub-programme: Freedom of expression and information – Safety of journalists

Deliverable

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), the MSI-ePLU is instructed to complete the following deliverable, within the following deadline:

	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Draft Recommendation on safeguarding media pluralism in the online environment	1	31/12/2027

Composition

· Members

The Committee shall be composed of 13 members, comprising 7 member States' representatives, designated by the CDMSI, and 6 independent experts, appointed by the Secretary General with recognised expertise in the fields of freedom of expression and information, media freedom, digital technologies, and policy for media governance and for the digital environment.

The Committee shall be composed in accordance with Article 6 of Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these 13 members. Other member States may designate representatives without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the Committee of Experts shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

- Participants

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- European Audiovisual Observatory;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, 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;
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- UN agencies (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)).

- Observers

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;

- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe [CDDEM\(2024\)14](#), as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

Plenary meetings ▼			
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2026	13	2	2
2027	13	2	2

The MSI-ePLU will appoint from amongst its members a Gender Equality Rapporteur.

The Chair of the MSI-ePLU will be invited to attend meetings of the CDMSI and/or its Bureau to inform them on progress with its work.

Budgetary information*

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2026	2	2	13	41.4	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B
2027	2	2	13	41.4	-	-	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 standard costs.