



Press release ERGA-meeting Amsterdam, March 2nd, 2016

European audiovisual regulators make important steps in cooperation

The European audiovisual regulators have made important steps in enforcing their cooperation in protecting minors and bringing European media oversight practices to a next level.

The European regulators, working together in ERGA (European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services) convened in Amsterdam, March 2nd 2016.

During the meeting, that was chaired by Prof.dr. Madeleine de Cock Buning (President of the Dutch Media Authority), ERGA was updated by the European Commission about significant developments, such as the status of the current review of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) within the framework of the European Digital Agenda. Also the results of an extensive research on children's exposure to alcohol advertisements were presented.

ERGA deliberated on the work-in-progress on its important report on territorial jurisdiction. The [Work Programme](#) of ERGA for 2016 that focuses on advising the Commission and the sharing of best practices of European audiovisual regulators, was furthered by the agreement on the terms of reference of three subgroups. The first group deals with the implementation aspects of the review of the AVMS Directive. The second group is on future-proof European audiovisual regulation in particular on the protection of minors. The third group is responsible for the creation of the Digital European Toolkit for national regulators (DET), thereby contributing to further empowerment of the media regulators in Europe. This is deemed to be crucial to ensure their efficient functioning and by doing so also strengthen their independent position towards the industry and state.

The importance of the independence of media regulators and the safeguard of the independence of media was passionately discussed at the meeting. There is a growing concern on these issues amongst the ERGA members. In the beginning of 2016, ERGA issued a [statement](#) in which it expressed its concerns about the situation in Poland, where the public media service has been affected by new laws. During its meeting in Amsterdam, ERGA duly noted the absence of the Greek media regulator as a consequence of not extended mandates of its board members. Due notice was taken of that fact, especially since more European regulators for audiovisual media are struggling with circumstances that impair their independent functioning.

These circumstances underline the importance of [ERGA's advice](#) to the European Commission that the revised AVMS Directive should include establishment of independent national regulatory authorities for audiovisual media services with sufficient resources to carry out their tasks in the protection of the core public value of independent and pluralistic media.

Note for the press: spokesperson for the Chair of ERGA, Madeleine de Cock Buning, Joop Veen can be contacted at 00-31-6-53360029