



Paris, 14 April 2015

**ERGA adopts a statement on freedom of expression  
and carries on with its works with a view to contribute  
to the reflection of the European Commission  
on the review of the AVMS Directive**

For its third plenary session, the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) has gathered in Paris.

The mission of ERGA, established on 3 February 2014, is to advise and assist the Commission, as to any matter related to audiovisual media services within the Commission's competence.

**Joint statement on freedom of expression**

At the initiative of the French Presidency, ERGA adopted a joint statement on freedom of expression. In the aftermath of the deadly attacks that struck France and Denmark, the European regulators for audiovisual media services, gathered within ERGA, wished to reaffirm the importance of freedom of expression and their unwavering and united support to the defense of this fundamental right.

**Continuation of the operational works**

The participants also continued their work which will feed into the ongoing REFIT evaluation of the AVMS ("Audiovisual Media Services") Directive, carried out by the European Commission. The work has focused on the role and independence of the audiovisual regulators, on the strengthening of protection of minors and on the services to be covered

by the Directive, including as regards providers in the new economic and technological environment.

Lastly, the Group discussed the issue of territorial jurisdiction, and the respective responsibilities of the regulators of the countries of origin and the regulators of the countries of destination.

The next ERGA plenary meeting will take place in the autumn of 2015, with the objective to reach conclusions and come to proposals within the framework of the ongoing evaluation of the AVMS Directive by the end of the year.

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ERGA was created on 3 February 2014 to the European Commission. It is composed of the heads of the national independent regulatory authorities in the field of audiovisual services.

ERGA's task is to advise and assist the Commission in its work to ensure a consistent implementation of the AVMS directive in a converged media age and in other related fields in which the Commission can act. In providing the Commission with its expertise and its independent point-of-view, the Group will seek to bring its own coordinated and operational input on the evolution of the European legal framework. It will also aim at facilitating the cooperation between regulatory bodies in the EU, and will allow for an exchange of experience and good practice.