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PRESS RELEASE ERGA 10TH PLENARY MEETING

ERGA prepares for the new Audiovisual Media Services Directive

The 10th Plenary meeting of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) took place in Brussels on 6 November 2018, the day of the final adoption by the European Institutions of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD). The revised EU wide rules for the television and on-demand services and the new provisions for video sharing platforms were at the centre of the discussions of the EU audiovisual regulators (NRAs).

ERGA adopted a comprehensive report, discussed during the year, on certain implications of the revised AVMSD for the NRAs. A relevant point at the meeting was also the role of ERGA itself, as the revised AVMSD now formally establishes the body.

Addressing members at the occasion of the Directive's adoption, Director-General of DG Connect Roberto Viola underlined the importance of ERGA as an expert group to provide technical expertise to the Commission, but also to exchange information and best practices with the members. The Director General highlighted ERGA's achievements since its creation and stressed the role of NRAs in the implementation of the new provisions.

New vice-chair elected

The heads of NRAs also elected a new vice-chair, Mr Karim Ibourki from the Belgian CSA. He joins Chair Lubos Kuklis from the Slovak CBR and vice-chair Tobias Schmid from the German DLM in steering the forthcoming activities of ERGA.

ERGA work in 2018

During the Plenary, members also reviewed the work and adopted the deliverables of the ERGA subgroups in 2018, which concentrated on three main topics:

- Internal Media plurality, where the group provided an overview of the existing measures, the challenges that NRAs face in the changing media landscape, with a specific focus also on disinformation, and possible approaches by NRAs.
- Possible implications of the revised AVMSD for the online environment, European works and jurisdiction issues, and the role of ERGA itself.
- An analysis of selected Self- and Co-Regulation schemes from different subjects focusing on lessons learnt. The group also presented a list of principles, which could be taken into account in the development of self and co-regulatory schemes for VSPs.

Looking back at 2018, ERGA has been actively facilitating the exchange of information among ERGA members. In particular, several events were organized by the ERGA Academy: in March a strategy session on “Online disinformation”; in October, a second edition of the Workshop on Protection of Minors and in November, back-to-back with the ERGA Plenary, the strategy session on Women in advertising. In addition, the Digital European Toolkit, which showed an increase in use during the year, has been bolstered with an improved functionality and the creation of a network of national editors.

ERGA Work programme 2019

In 2019, ERGA’s work is planned and divided through four subgroups.

- The topic of media plurality will be continued with a focus on external plurality and media literacy (continuing also the exploration of the topic of disinformation).
- The changes brought about by the revised AVMSD will continue to be assessed during the next year.
- A new subgroup will attempt to streamline the work of ERGA, particularly in the light of new tasks deriving from the revised directive.
- A new subgroup topic has been approved, NRAs will concentrate on the provisions for Gender balance and the exchange of good practices in this field.

The Members also recognized the need to permanently integrate the document repository and the organization of events into the ERGA structure.

More exact details will be defined in the Terms of Reference for each subgroup so that the subgroups may start working on the topics at the beginning of next year.

Notes for Editors

The European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) consists of the national regulatory authorities in the field of audiovisual media services. ERGA advises the European Commission and facilitates cooperation between the regulatory bodies in the EU.

Lubos Kuklis, Chief Executive of the Slovak Regulatory Authority, is the Chairperson of ERGA in 2018 and 2019. The spokesperson of the Chair, Michal Hradicky, can be contacted at +421 918 859 929.