



**ERGA Subgroup 2 on the future of ERGA
5 February 2019**

Minutes

Attendees: CSA France (chair), KommAustria, RRTV Czech Republic, SLKS Denmark, DLM Germany, BAI Ireland, ESR Greece, CNMC Spain, AGCOM Italy, NEPLPADOME Latvia, NMHH Hungary, CvdM The Netherlands, KRRIT Poland, ERC Portugal, AKOS Slovenia, RVR Slovakia, MPRT Sweden, OFCOM UK, Medietilsynet Norway, European Commission.

Introductory remarks

In his introductory remarks, the Chair Frederic Bokobza pointed out that the main goal of the meeting would be to discuss the Subgroup 2 work plan, its realisation and ERGA's role in the future.

The Chair reiterated the key messages of the Terms of Reference, i.e. effective assistance of ERGA in the implementation of the revised AVMSD, establishing medium and long-term strategies and a more regular cooperation with stakeholders.

He noted that ERGA was created five years ago and that with the revised AVMSD this was the right moment to discuss its further functioning. The Chair highlighted however, that any revision of the ERGA rules of procedure would have to be done in a consistent manner. He also mentioned such an amendment should pay a particular attention to the issue of inclusiveness in the work of ERGA

➔ The agenda was adopted.

Presentation of the Subgroup work plan and key milestones

In his presentation, the Chair listed the following key objectives that are expected to be covered by the Subgroup 2:

- a) Preparing ERGA to take on its new responsibilities stemming from the revised AVMSD,
- b) Strategy setting,
- c) Ensuring flexibility in workload management,
- d) Increasing transparency and inclusiveness,
- e) Improving external communication and contribution to public debate and,
- f) Establishing relations with external stakeholders.

In its presentation, the Chair noted that the Subgroup would operate through three distinct work streams.

Workstream 1 on ERGA future tasks would focus on the potential changes for ERGA in order to fully and effectively play its part in the implementation of the revised AVMSD. It will be managed by Germany (DLM), Slovakia (RVR), and the Netherlands (CvdM).

Workstream 2 would focus on comparative analysis of other networks or groups. The drafters would be Italy (AGCOM), Spain (CNMC), Hungary (NMHH) and Ireland (BAI).

Workstream 3 will be responsible for consulting the ERGA members about their expectations concerning ERGA's reform. It will be led by France (CSA).

With regard to the timeframe, the Chair pointed out that between February and early April a consultation with ERGA members will take place. This will include a qualitative survey between 8-22 February and a series of bilateral interview in early April.

The outputs of the three work streams as well as the presentation of a guidance document for the drafting of amendments to the Rules of Procedure will then be presented during the ERGA meeting in May.

The guidance document is also expected to be adopted at the ERGA plenary in June. The Chair clarified that he would like it to be as concrete as possible.

Roundtable discussion on the future of ERGA

Following the Chair's presentation, a roundtable discussion took place.

The NRAs were asked about their main expectations regarding ERGA's internal reform as well as to present their vision of ERGA in the future.

In their responses, the NRAs highlighted the following issues:

- (i) Numerous NRAs called for fostering the cooperation between the NRAs, providing more occasions for exchange of views with stakeholders and facilitating the communication between ERGA members.
- (ii) Many NRAs noticed a need for further harmonisation and simplification of ERGA's work methodology, for instance with regard to the length of reports, external communication or a decision making process.
- (iii) Some NRAs highlighted a need for clearer structure when it comes to relation between Taskforces and Subgroups.
- (iv) Numerous NRAs mentioned a need for a long term strategy planning.
- (v) In order to increase inclusiveness of ERGA, many NRAs also suggested benefitting from video-conferences or other technical solutions.
- (vi) there was a request for improvements of the ERGA-website – e.g. by having a dedicated and easy accessible area for reports and by having a section with presentations and contact information for all the NRA-members.

In its comments, the Commission stated that it welcomed the new role of ERGA and will support the Group's adaptation of its work methods. The Commission mentioned that issues related to ERGA's communication with external actors shall be in line with the Commission rules on expert groups and consulted with the Commission. Concerning the benchmarking exercise of the workstream 2, the Commission suggested especially focusing on these groups that have a similar status to ERGA.

On a general note, the Commission asked the Subgroup to consider the implications that meetings have on the Commission budget for ERGA and encouraged using cost-saving methods when planning and organising meetings and events.

Feedback on qualitative survey

The second part of the meeting gave the Subgroup members a possibility to present their feedback on the qualitative survey drafted by the French CSA. In general, they were favourable towards the text of the survey. Several NRAs expressed their preference to a short survey with a possibility to provide further clarifications during the bilateral interviews.

Next steps:

The NRAs will be able to reply to the survey until 22 February 2019. The next meeting of the Subgroup is provisionally expected to take place in late April or in May.