



Bratislava, 26 June 2019

PRESS RELEASE ERGA 11th PLENARY MEETING

ERGA adopts a statement on its work on disinformation and agrees to reform

The 11th Plenary meeting of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) took place in Bratislava on 20th and 21st June 2019. ERGA presented the outcomes of the work done so far on disinformation, which focused on the 2019 European elections and the related areas of political and issue-based advertising. ERGA supports the European Commission in monitoring the implementation of the commitments made by Google, Facebook and Twitter signing the Code of Practice on Disinformation.

Also, ERGA agreed to reform its structure and working methods to be able to tackle emerging challenges and to operate effectively under the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD). In this context, ERGA adopted a Statement of Purpose that defines its core values, tasks, operating principles and sets out strategic priorities for the next five years.

ERGA's work presented to Commissioner Gabriel

ERGA presented the ongoing work to the EU Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society Mariya Gabriel. The Commissioner underlined ERGA's significant role in providing technical expertise to the Commission regarding different AVMSD implementation issues and highlighted the importance of ERGA's work in the area of disinformation, media literacy as well as ERGA's contributions to gender diversity in media.

ERGA's work on disinformation

ERGA adopted an *Interim Assessment of the Implementation of the Code of Practice on Disinformation* on the interim assessment. The report summarises ERGA's findings from the monitoring exercise by the participating authorities in 16 Member States of Google, Twitter and Facebook's implementation of the commitments under the Code of Practice on Disinformation¹.

ERGA also produced a statement on the adopted monitoring report, highlighting the progress achieved by the platforms and stressing some shortcomings, especially regarding the lack of access to adequate and detailed data for monitoring purposes.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/code-practice-disinformation>

ERGA will continue its expert support to the Commission over the second half of 2019 and invites the signatories of the Code to strengthen their efforts to implement the commitments in a complete, transparent and accountable manner.

Reform of ERGA

Following the official adoption of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive² (AVMSD) by the European Co-legislators at the end of last year, ERGA worked intensively to prepare a reform of its functions and working methods in order to be able to effectively carry out the new tasks stemming from the AVMSD as well as to prepare a structural reform of ERGA's governance. The overall aim is to make ERGA more effective, transparent, relevant and inclusive. Several proposals were adopted during the meeting to provide guidance for further work. ERGA's plenary in December 2019 will integrate specific changes into the documents governing the work of ERGA.

AVMSD implementation and gender diversity

ERGA's subgroup on Gender diversity presented the first results of a comprehensive stocktaking of national initiatives on gender diversity, focusing on on-screen representations, off-screen or management issue and/or cross-cutting initiatives. The provided examples will contribute to a final report on good industry-led practices and to establish common gender quality indicators.

ERGA continues to work on topics related to the implementation of the revised AVMSD, focusing on changes in material rules, material scope – namely, the inclusion of Video-Sharing Platforms – and the different mechanisms of regulation and cooperation.

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 2019. For questions, please refer to the ERGA Secretariat CNECT-ERGA-SECRETARIAT@ec.europa.eu.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/revision-audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd>