



**Contact Network meeting of the
European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services
Friday, 22 November 2019
Brussels**

Minutes

Opening of the meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair of the meeting, Michal Hradicky, welcomed the participants. He explained that two additional items would be added to the agenda: a summary update of the ad-hoc group reviewing the situation of the Latvian regulator and an update on an official request from Regulator of Bosnia-Herzegovina to join ERGA as observer.

Update from the Commission

A representative from the Commission informed that Commissioner-designate Breton has been approved by the European Parliament for the Internal Market portfolio. The timing of the Commission's work on the guidelines concerning Video-Sharing Platforms and European works will be adjusted to the start of the new Commission.

Subgroup 1 – Media plurality / Taskforce on disinformation

The Irish and Italian NRAs (co-chairs of the Subgroup) gave a verbal report on the status of the monitoring and explained that the Subgroup's report will be delayed as the group was waiting for detailed responses from the platforms. An interim report will be provided at the Plenary on 10 December and the report will be finalised early next year. The chair of the meeting noted that the ERGA board accepted that the delay was justified to increase the quality of the report overall. As a general comment, the subgroup flagged the difficulty it had obtaining data from the platforms. The Commission asked the subgroup for a short summary of the report.

Subgroup 2 – Future of ERGA

The French regulator (chair of the Subgroup) explained the revised text to the group and added that some changes were introduced to comply with the European Commission's horizontal rules for expert groups. During the discussion, further changes were made to the draft document, such as a clarification on observers and experts. The majority of the regulators also opted for the option that the duration of the chair's mandate could be for a maximum period of 12 months upon re-election.

Subgroup 3 – Implementation of the revised AVMS Directive

The German NRA (Chair of the Subgroup) presented the summary report and three Annex papers for each taskforce of this subgroup.

A number of regulators at the meeting suggested slight amendments to the text of the report and annexes. It was agreed that the suggestions be sent to the German NRA by mail. The Commission also suggested that the paper make additional reference to the AVMSD and the Country of Origin principle as well as further links to the priorities of the Work Programme for 2020.

Subgroup 4 – Gender diversity

The Belgian NRA (chair of the Subgroup) presented the report, which was based on the replies of 17 NRAs to a corresponding questionnaire. The report contains recommendations for on and off screen practices and also gender equality indicators.

ERGA Work programme 2020

The German NRA explained that each Subgroup would have two strands: one to work on technical expertise aspects and one to sharing best practices between NRAs through workshops.

The proposed Subgroups would cover three topics: (i) Strengthening the digital single market by enforcing European values/ rules in the online environment; (ii) Disinformation; and (iii) Ensuring prominence and non-discriminatory access of audiovisual content to all platforms. The structure could also be flanked with action groups for regular or ad-hoc needs, under the responsibility of a specific Boardmember. The ERGA Academy would be integrated into the work of the Subgroups.

Sentiments from numbers regulators were expressed about their satisfaction and interest in the 2020 programme.

Call/Elections ERGA board

The French NRA explained the election procedure for the ERGA leadership, once the updated Rules of Procedure will be adopted at the Plenary. Formal applications need to be backed by two supporting NRAs. NRAs were invited to express their informal interests in leadership positions.

Any other business

Bosnian Request to participate in ERGA

The Commissions explained that it received a request from the Bosnia & Herzegovinian regulator to become an observer of ERGA. The Commission explained that it will be beneficial to allow the regulator to join the meetings and informed that it will grant the request.

Ad-Hoc group on independence of Latvian NRA

The Dutch NRA gave a summary from the ad hoc group, which was tasked to gather information on the situation surrounding independence of the Latvian NRA. The NRA informed of the Latvian legal framework, which will change following the transposition of the AVMSD, and explained that they will suggest to the Board to gather additional information should the situation in Latvia require this.

Annex I – List of participants

National Regulatory Authority – COUNTRY
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
The Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
UK
Iceland
Norway
Montenegro
Northern Macedonia
Turkey
ORGANISATION
EPRA – European Platform for Regulatory
European Commission