NEW SERVICES AND SCOPE: WHAT'S IN, WHAT'S OUT REVISITED

AVMS SCOPE



THE BELGIAN CSA RECOMMENDATION







"A SERVICE AS DEFINED BY ARTICLES 56 AND 57 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WHICH IS UNDER THE EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A MEDIA SERVICE PROVIDER AND THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF WHICH IS THE PROVISION OF PROGRAMMES, IN ORDER TO INFORM, ENTERTAIN OR EDUCATE, TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS."

CRITERIA

- 1) ECONOMIC SERVICE
- 2) EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF A PROVIDER
- 3) PRINCIPAL PURPOSE
- 4) PROVISION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
- 5) PROGRAMMES
- 6) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS
- 7) TO INFORM, ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE OR TO ENSURE COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATION

1 ECONOMIC SERVICE

As defined by Articles 56 and 57 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. => Implies 2 elements:

- A counterpart:
 - Direct retribution of the service
 - Doesn't need to be pecuniary
 - Doesn't need to give profit to the provider
 - Can come from anybody (audience, advertisers, public authorities,...)
- An economic aim/competition with other services
 - Can evolve in time
 - Decisive element if doubt about the counterpart

2. EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The provider must have effective control (concrete possibility to perform a control) over

The selection of programmes (what will be in the service)

And

The organisation of programmes (when and how will it be offered to the public)

WHAT IF THE SELECTION AND ORGANISATION ARE CARRIED ON BY DIFFERENT PERSONS?



Position of CVdM: the person controlling the *selection* is responsible because the most able to put and end to infractions.



Position of CSA: the person controlling the *organisation* is responsible because the respect of the most important remaining regulations are technically in his hands: ads, protection of minors, promotion of European works.

3. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE

An AVMS has to have the provision of audiovisual programmes as **principal purpose**.

⇒ 2 possibilities when faced to a service with audiovisual and other contents:

- 1) The audiovisual contents can be isolated as an independant service => OK
- 2) The audiovisual contents can't be isolated as an independant service => **Hybrid service** whose principal purpose must be identified

Various criteria will be used to identify the principal purpose of a hybrid service:

- Proportion of audiovisual content
- Ergonomy of the service
- Finality/business model/core business of the service (most attractive contents to the public, perception of the service by the public)



THE DIRECTIVE'S PROVISIONS EXCLUDE CERTAIN SERVICES BECAUSE THEY *GENERALLY* DON'T FULFILL THE « PRINCIPAL PURPOSE » CRITERION <u>BUT</u>, IN CASE THEY DO, THE CRITERION MUST PREVAIL.

EX.: NEWSPAPER WEBSITES IF THEY ARE MORE THAN A SIMPLE « ELECTRONIC VERSION » OF THE CLASSIC NEWSPAPER

DEBATE ON THE REGULATION OF HYBRID SERVICES

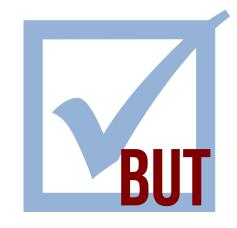


4. GENERAL PUBLIC

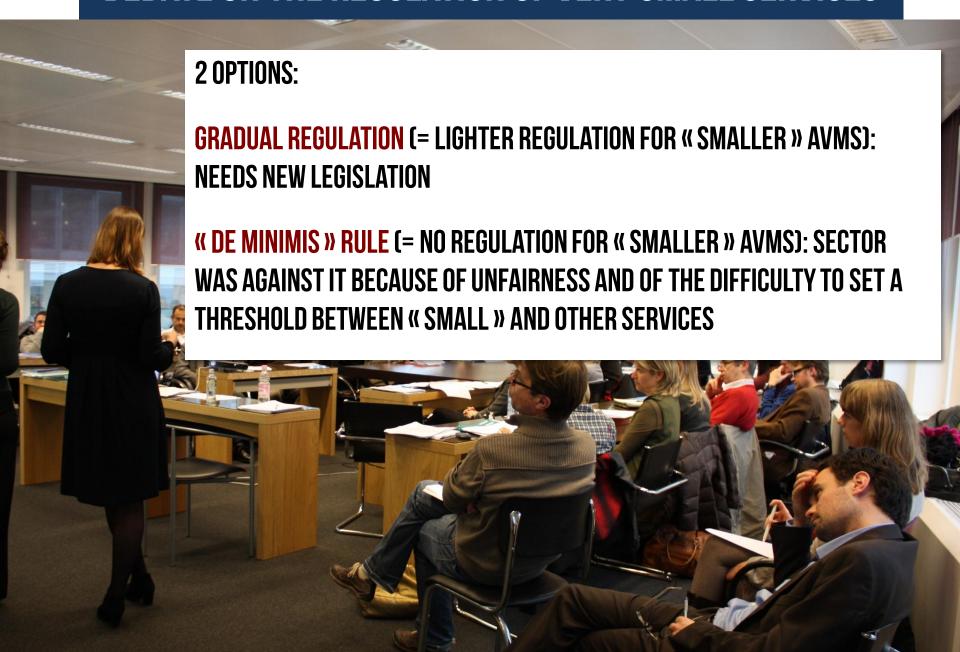
An AVMS has to be provided to the **general public**.

- ⇒ Criterion to use = **intention** of the provider (potential audience)
- ⇒ Criterion not to use = concrete use of the service by the public (real audience)

IF INTENTION IS TO AIM A GENERAL PUBLIC, THE CRITERION OF « GENERAL PUBLIC » IS FULFILLED EVEN IF ONLY VERY FEW PEOPLE EFFECTIVELY USE THE SERVICE.



DEBATE ON THE REGULATION OF VERY SMALL SERVICES





CSA DECIDED TO ONLY REGULATE SMALL SERVICES:

- IF THEY NOTIFY
- OR IF THEY ACTUALLY AND EFFECTIVELY COMPETE WITH OTHER SERVICES (IF THEY DON'T, THEY FULFILL THE CRITERION OF « GENERAL PUBLIC » BUT NOT THE CRITERION OF « ECONOMIC SERVICE »).

5. PROGRAMMES

- a set of moving images with or without sound <u>or</u> a set of sound (AVMS also cover radio services in our legislation) constituting an individual item within a schedule or a catalogue established by a provider
- a form and content comparable to traditional broadcasting

LARGE INTERPRETATION: ONLY CONTENTS THAT ARE NOT CONCEIVED TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD BE EXCLUDED (EX.: VIDEOS SHOOTED IN A STRICTLY PRIVATE CONTEXT AND SUPPOSED TO ADDRESS ONLY A FAMILY, A CORPORATION, ETC.)

6. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

- Concerns: cable, hertzian broadcasting, satellite, Internet, mobile networks
- Does not concern: cinema, DVD rental



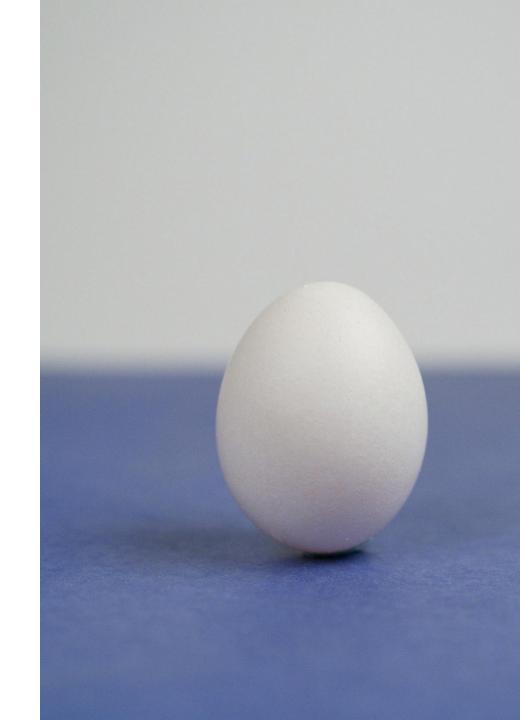


7. AIM TO INFORM, ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE OR TO ENSURE COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATION

So large it doesn't seem to exclude anything.



INTUITIVE REASONABLE PRAGMATIC



THE FUTURE OF NEW MEDIA REGULATION

BENEFITS OF REGULATION PURPOSE OF REGULATION



GENERALLY APPLICABLE REGULATION

- Identification
- Protection of minors
- Advertising rules

LINEAR SERVICES

- Specific rules on protection of minors
- Ad time limits
- Quotas

CLOSED PATFORM

- Independance from politics
- Journalistic ethics

OPEN PLATFORM

CLOSED PATFORM

- Independance from politics
- Journalistic ethics

NON-LINEAR SERVICES

- Access of minors
- Promotion of European works

OPEN Platform