

## EPRA ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME for 2014

14 February 2014

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### Introduction:

EPRA's annual work programme aims to enhance transparency for members and external stakeholders of EPRA's priorities and anticipated work for 2014. The EPRA Board prepared this programme based on members' suggestions further to a formal call for topics. Partner organisations and stakeholders were also informally asked to provide their views. Further to a two-month consultation phase, the Board approved the final programme on 14 February 2014 in London.

The 2014 work programme is built around the current EPRA meetings structure, maintaining a format that has been functioning well in the last years:

- Two plenary themes: these cover key topics that are of relevance to all members, i.e. featuring high on the European agenda or addressing core missions of regulatory authorities. To ensure continuity, the themes are discussed in BOTH the June and October meetings. The specific subtopics are fine-tuned ahead of each meeting and the format is normally that of a panel of regulators, often with a keynote speaker from industry or academia.
- Three working groups: these allow for more practical and focused exchanges. Two of them are yearly groups with topics for discussion in BOTH the June and October meetings. The third ad-hoc group enables more flexibility to address emerging issues. The format of the groups may vary from a roundtable discussion, a presentation by an external speaker, individual presentations by members or a combination of these.

**The Board has reflected carefully on the suggestions collected through the consultation process and has attempted to accommodate these as much as possible in the following work programme.**

**The programme for 2014 aims at striking a balance between forward-looking themes, essential values and core concerns of regulators, and practical/technical issues particularly suited for the exchange of experience and best practices between regulators.**

## **A. Plenary Themes for 2014**

### **1. Beyond the AVMS: Future Models of Media Regulation**

Closely connected to on-going debates about the continuing relevance of the distinction between linear and non-linear media services and, more generally, about the future of media regulation in a connected media landscape, the first forward-looking theme will include:

- A session **on 5 June 2014 in Budva** analysing the **responses of regulatory authorities and other relevant stakeholders** to the European Commission's recent Green Paper on Convergence<sup>1</sup>. This session will be the opportunity for invited service and platform providers to develop their specific point of view, identifying which are the main regulatory challenges from their perspective and putting their ideal regulatory responses forward.
- A session **on 9 October 2014 in Tbilisi** dedicated to an **exchange of views between regulators on the expected regulatory responses** to the issues emerging on the market: What could the AVMS framework look like in the future? Which new models for regulatory policy and governance should be taken on board? How to safeguard competition between platform providers and transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory access for all service providers to all platforms?

**Aim of the session: Against the backdrop of the Commission's Green paper and the European Parliament's Resolution on Connected TV<sup>2</sup>, this plenary session will contribute to:**

- keeping EPRA members abreast of discussions on how the legal framework may look like in the future ahead of a future review of the AVMS Directive,
- reaffirming EPRA as a rich source of information and thought-provoking exchanges in the context of debates on the future of European audiovisual policy.

### **2. Tackling discriminatory and hateful content in a convergent media environment**

The second plenary theme will bring together two related content issues, that of hate speech and diversity and representation in the media, both currently raising new challenges in the convergent media environment. It will include:

- A session **on 6 June 2014 in Budva** entitled "**Hate speech – old enemy, new battles**", looking at free speech abuses, especially from the aspect of new media, analysing the adequacy of current legal sanctions and remedies as well as the effects of NRAs' measures regarding hate speech and looking at the respective

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<sup>1</sup> "Preparing for a Fully Converged Audiovisual World: Growth, Creation and Value", <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/consultations-media-issues>;

Responses: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/consultation-green-paper-preparing-fully-converged-audiovisual-world-growth-creation-and-values>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P7-TA-2013-329>

degrees of involvement and responsibility of regulators, public prosecution office, courts, and the wider social arena.

- A session on **10 October 2014 in Tbilisi** entitled “**Ensuring Diversity and Inclusion in the Media**” exploring how predominant manners of representations of age, social class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and disability in the media are treated by national regulators. The session will look at current regulatory provisions, the balance to be struck with editorial freedom, and the role played by NRAs in monitoring and promoting diversity, non-discrimination and inclusion in the media.

**Aim of the session:** Against the backdrop of recent developments of the Council of Europe’s strategy on hate speech<sup>3</sup> and fight against discrimination, as exemplified by the recent Recommendation on gender equality and media<sup>4</sup>, this plenary session will contribute to:

- Encourage the sharing of experiences, recent cases and best practices between EPRA members and relevant organisations,
- Mapping out the role played by NRAs, and delimitating their remit with other national, European and international organisations.

## **B. Working Groups for 2014**

### **1. WG1: Empowering users** (Yearly WG convening twice)

Echoing the first plenary theme, which will explore alternative modes of governance, this group will address a relatively novel role played by NRAs, that of empowering users to engage with media and to protect themselves, with practical focus on protection of minors’ aspects. This yearly group will include:

#### ➤ **A session on Media Literacy**

Six years after first addressing the topic in Riga in a plenary session<sup>5</sup>, the working group will revisit the issue of media literacy on **5 June in Budva** to take stock of new developments at national and European level, compare approaches to media literacy, look at how research informs media literacy initiatives, collect best practices and conduct benchmarking on the roles and responsibilities of both media players and NRAs.

#### ➤ **A session on Protection Tools**

Following up on the plenary session on the protection of minors in 2013 in Krakow<sup>6</sup>, the group, at its session on **9 October 2014 in Tbilisi**, will look into the variety of existing protection tools (such as labelling, classification and pin protection) for linear and non-linear content and the level of acceptance of current models by the audience. Can some criteria be harmonised to meet audience expectation - especially in neighbouring countries?

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/belgrade2013/McGonagle%20-%20The%20Council%20of%20Europe%20against%20online%20hate%20speech.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2087343&Site=CM>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.epra.org/attachments/riga-plenary-1-media-literacy-background-document>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.epra.org/attachments/krakow-session-1-the-protection-of-minors-in-a-connected-environment-comparative-document-final-version>

## 2. **WG2: Independence of NRAs** (Yearly WG convening twice)

In the wake of the INDIREG study<sup>7</sup>, the European Commission's consultation on the independence of regulatory authorities<sup>8</sup> and the recent conclusions of the European Council<sup>9</sup> inviting the Member States to "*ensure the independence of their audiovisual regulatory authorities*", the working group will devote:

- One session, **on 5 June 2014 in Budva**, to analyse the **responses to the Commission's consultation on the independence of NRAs**, identify common trends and challenges, analyse existing models, discuss any envisaged follow-up actions;
- One session, **on 9 October 2014 in Tbilisi**, to look at **tools and best practices to strengthen independence**; the aim of the session will explore whether the definition of independence is changing; what are the key prerequisites and essential work processes to ensure independence; what is the role of effectiveness and transparency in the struggle for independence; what role can the industry and civil society play as essential allies to fend off political pressure? Can international and European institutions help, and if so how?

## 3. **WG3: Ad-hoc working group** (Two groups convening just once)

For the session, **on 5 June 2014 in Budva**, the ad-hoc group will focus on:

### ➤ **Major Events**

13 years after addressing the issue at the EPRA meeting in Barcelona<sup>10</sup>, EPRA members will revisit the topic of major events by focusing on the procedure to follow to adopt a formal list and by looking at the life of the list, the exercise of the rights, and the tools to intervene.

For the session, **on 9 October 2014 in Tbilisi**, the ad-hoc group will focus on:

### ➤ **Digital Radio - a chance, a challenge, a risk?**

Three years after addressing the issue at the EPRA meeting in Ohrid<sup>11</sup>, EPRA members will revisit the topic of digital radio, looking at countries in which take up is successful, analyzing the strategies that have been developed, the standards used, the licensing issues, the setting of switchover criteria, etc...

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.epra.org/news\\_items/indireg-study-on-independence-of-regulators-published-at-last](http://www.epra.org/news_items/indireg-study-on-independence-of-regulators-published-at-last)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.epra.org/news\\_items/independence-of-nras-regulators-responses-to-the-commission-s-public-consultation](http://www.epra.org/news_items/independence-of-nras-regulators-responses-to-the-commission-s-public-consultation)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.epra.org/news\\_items/eu-council-stresses-need-for-reinforced-cooperation-between-independent-regulators](http://www.epra.org/news_items/eu-council-stresses-need-for-reinforced-cooperation-between-independent-regulators)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.epra.org/meetings/barcelona-2001-13th-epra-meeting-18-20-april-2001>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.epra.org/attachments/101>

## AT A GLANCE: EPRA ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2014

### **SPRING MEETING 2014: Budva, 4-6 June**

At the invitation of the [Agency for Electronic Media of Montenegro](#)

#### PLENARY SESSION I:

**GENERAL THEME: Beyond the AVMS: Future Models of Media Regulation**

**SPECIAL FOCUS:** *Green Paper on Convergence: Analysis of NRAs and relevant stakeholders' responses*

#### PLENARY SESSION II:

**GENERAL THEME: Tackling discriminatory and hateful content in a convergent media environment**

**SPECIAL FOCUS:** *Hate speech - Old Enemy, New Battles*

#### WORKING GROUP 1:

**Empowering users:** *Focus on Media Literacy*

#### WORKING GROUP 2:

**Independence of NRAs:** *Analysing NRAs responses to the Commission's consultation*

#### (AD HOC) WORKING GROUP 3:

**Major Events**

### **AUTUMN MEETING 2014: Tbilisi, 8-10 October**

At the invitation of the [Georgian National Communication Commission](#)

#### PLENARY SESSION I:

**GENERAL THEME: Beyond the AVMS: Future Models of Media Regulation**

**SPECIAL FOCUS:** *What regulatory responses to the new media landscape? Exchange of views between NRAs*

#### PLENARY SESSION II:

**GENERAL THEME: Tackling discriminatory and hateful content in a convergent media environment**

**SPECIAL FOCUS:** *Ensuring Diversity and Inclusion in the Media*

#### WORKING GROUP 1:

**Empowering Users:** *Focus on Protection Tools*

#### WORKING GROUP 2:

**Independence of NRAs:** *Tools and best practices to strengthen independence*

#### (AD HOC) WORKING GROUP 3:

**Digital Radio:** *A chance, a challenge, a risk?*

***You have comments and suggestions on this work programme?  
You wish to contribute to the programme as a speaker or panelist?***

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