



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Update on Council of Europe Developments by the Media and Internet Division

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Activities of the Secretary General 2015

- Secretary's General report on **State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe 2015**
Chapter II Freedom of Expression:
 - Safety of journalists and others performing public watchdog functions
 - Protection from arbitrary application of the law
 - Media independence
 - Media pluralism and diversity
 - Protection of freedom of expression on the Internet
- A comparative study of laws and practices regarding blocking and filtering of illegal Internet content in 47 member States
- Exploring possible role of Ombudspersons and/other human rights institutions for enhancing safety of journalists and protection of journalism

Cooperation activities and capacity building

In 2014-2015:

- more than 280 events organised
- 6000 people trained

Promoting the implementation of standards in the fields of **freedom of expression and information and media freedom**

Number of projects per country from 2011 until 2017





Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI), work accomplished 2014/2015:

Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)___ of the Committee of Ministers to member States on **protecting and promoting the right to freedom of expression and the right to private life with regard to network neutrality**

Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on **WSIS+10 review and IGF extension**

Declaration of Committee of Ministers on **ICANN, human rights and the rule of law**

Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on **the free, transboundary flow of information on the Internet**

Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on **the processing of personal data in the context of employment (TP-D proposal)**

Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors (30 April 2014)

Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on a **Guide to human rights for Internet users** (16 April 2014)



Work still under way in 2015



Draft recommendation on Internet freedom



Draft report on freedom of assembly and association on the Internet



Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on protecting and promoting the right to freedom of expression and the right to private life with regard to **network neutrality**



Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)___ of the Committee of Ministers to member States on protecting and promoting the right to freedom of expression and the right to private life with regard to network neutrality



Providers of Internet access services have the technical ability to manage information and data flows (Internet traffic) transiting through the networks that they operate.

- Engagement in Internet traffic management for specific legitimate purposes
- Actions to prevent access to or dissemination of unlawful or harmful content
- Possibility of other interferences with Internet traffic



The principle of network neutrality underpins non-discriminatory treatment of Internet traffic and users' right to receive and impart information and to use services of their choice



Work on safety of journalists

- Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/media-freedom/home>
- Draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors



Draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors

- Establishment of early-warning and rapid response mechanisms (hotlines, online platforms, 24-hour emergency contact points) - immediate access to protective measures
- Training in all matters of safety, digital security and privacy
- Practices of surveillance of journalists and other media actors and tracking of their online activities, can endanger the legitimate exercise of freedom of expression (without the necessary safeguards)



Future work of the CDMSI: New Terms of Reference (1 January 2016 - 31 December 2017)

Standard-setting activities

- Media pluralism and transparency of media ownership
- Media coverage of elections (gender equality, the use of Internet in elections)

Sub-committees:
**Committee of experts
on Media Pluralism
and Transparency of
Media Ownership
(MSI-MED)**

- Internet intermediaries (Internet service providers and Internet platforms)
- Human rights dimensions of automated data processing techniques

**Committee of experts
on Internet
Intermediaries
(MSI-NET)**



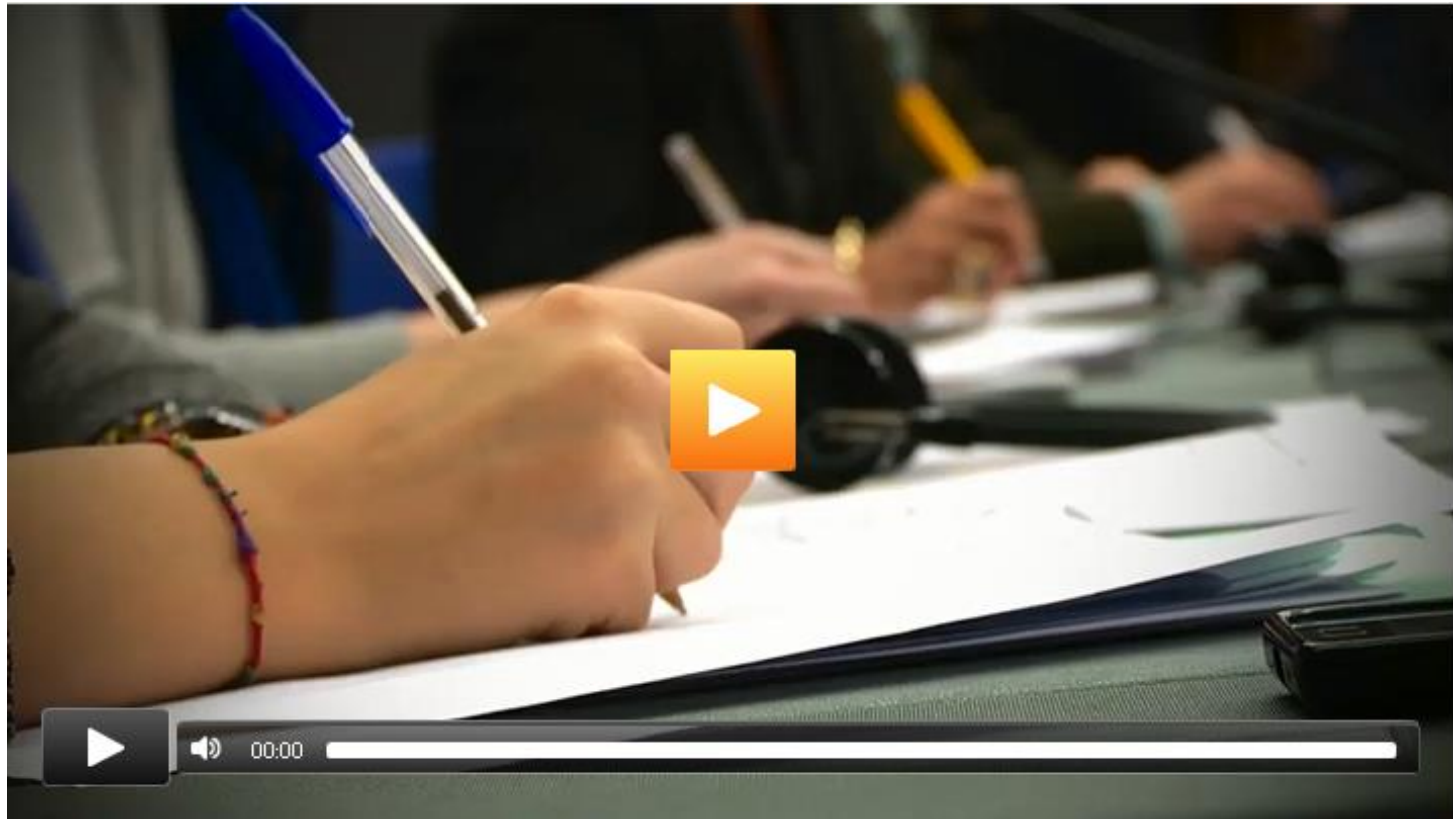
Freedom of Expression conference 13/14 October 2015

Key topics:

- Freedom of expression as a fundamental value of democracy
 - Challenges to freedom of expression posed by the Internet
 - The role of the European Convention on Human Rights
- radicalisation via the Internet
 - hate speech
 - confidentiality of journalists' sources
 - right to be forgotten
 - mass surveillance
 - fight against terrorism
 - protecting freedom of expression online, role of intermediaries



Freedom of Expression conference 13/14 October 2015





Thank you for your attention

Useful links:

- Media and Internet Governance division website:
<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/STANDARDSETTING/MEDIA/>
- Platform for protection of journalism and safety of journalists:
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/MEDIA-FREEDOM>