

44th EPRA Meeting
Yerevan, October 2016
Chairperson's Report

1 SPEAKERS, GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

- I am very pleased to inform you that on this occasion, we have **122 delegates** with us, representing 41 of our members. Unfortunately, our colleagues from Finland, Iceland, the Isle of Man, the Catalan Audiovisual Council and Andalusian Council of Spain, Turkey, Kosovo, Azerbaijan, the 2nd Authority for Television and Radio in Israel, Ukraine and the Media Council of the German-speaking Community of Belgium are not in a position to join us.
- I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to our guest speakers who will share their knowledge and experience with us:
 - Mr. Ross Biggam, Vice-president, Government Relations EMEA, Discovery
 - Mr. Jean-François Furnémont, Founding Partner, Wagner-Hatfield
- We also extend a warm EPRA welcome to our special guest:
 - HACA, Morocco: Ms. Amina Lemrini
- As always, we are delighted to welcome representatives of our permanent observer institutions to our meeting:
 - European Commission, DG-CNECT: Marcel Boulogne
 - European Audiovisual Observatory: Maja Cappello; Gilles Fontaine
 - Council of Europe Media and Internet Division: Lejla Dervisagič

Owing to conflicting commitments, the OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media could not be represented this time.

2 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Activity of the Executive Board has continued apace since our last meeting in Barcelona in May. The Board met in London on 8th July. This meeting reviewed the plenary meeting in Barcelona and we discussed implementation of EPRA's work programme for the second half of 2016. A substantive element of our work on this occasion was a consideration of the responses received to our consultation on the draft EPRA Strategy – the fruits of which work will be discussing further at our meeting in Yerevan.

3 CO-OPERATION

The following reflects some of the active co-operation which EPRA has enjoyed since the last plenary meeting:

- **MAVISE:** Co-operation between EPRA, the EPRA Members and the European Audiovisual Observatory for the **Development of the MAVISE Database** is on-going. A further meeting of the taskforce will be held in Yerevan and an update will be presented to the Plenary on Thursday morning.
- **EBU:** There has been a **fruitful exchange of documentation** between EPRA and the EBU since our last meeting following agreement on the sharing and exchange of information and publications between the two organisations which heretofore would not have been available to our members. We hope our members have found this information useful and would welcome feedback in this regard. Further discussions will take over the coming months to consider the organisation of a **closed workshop** on the subject of the future of public service media in the evolving technological environment.
- **KU Leuven, TNO and Sparks & Co:** Through the office of Peggy Valcke in KU Leuven, EPRA has been invited to participate as an advisor to a project which is seeking funding under the ICT19b call in the Horizon 2020 programme, and in which KU Leuven is a key partner. The project aims to establish a European media technology and policy exchange to connect technology/app developers with policy-makers/regulators and vice versa. Further information regarding EPRA's response to this invitation will be shared at our meeting in Yerevan.
- **European Audiovisual Observatory:** Detailed planning will shortly commence with our Observatory colleagues with regard to our December workshop, with the provisional title of "The material scope of the new AVMSD". The workshop will be held in Strasbourg on Monday, December 12th.

4 REPRESENTATION

Reflecting the summer season, representation duties by members of the Executive Board has not been quite so busy since our Barcelona meeting as is typically the case in the late autumn-winter period. Our activity included the following:

- **EMR/ERA Annual Conference on European Media Law 2016:** 2-3 June, Brussels. *Damir Hajduk*, EPRA Vice-chairperson, represented EPRA at this annual event. This year, the conference focused on: Reform of the AVMS Directive; Geo-blocking; and Media convergence, fundamental rights and cultural diversity.
- **CERRE Executive Seminar: *The new AVMS Directive: Fit for the Internet Age?*** 23-24 June, Brussels. *Damir Hajduk* participated as a panelist at the event, which included many industry representatives, and which discussed all of the key elements of the draft Directive.
- **MSI-MED Committee:** Emmanuelle Machet, EPRA Secretary represented EPRA as an observer at the 2nd meeting of the Committee of experts on Media Pluralism and Transparency of Media Ownership which took place on 27-28 September in Strasbourg. The first draft of a future Recommendation on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership was discussed as well two draft feasibility studies related to the media coverage of electoral campaigns (the first on gender equality and media coverage of elections, the second on the shift of electoral campaigning to Internet platforms).
- **IRIS Editorial Board:** Emmanuelle Machet represented EPRA as an observer at the meeting of the IRIS Editorial Board which took place on 13 October in Strasbourg.

We are expecting that the level of activity will increase significantly between now and the end of 2016 and will include participation in the following events:

- Council of Europe and EBU Inter-parliamentary Conference on ***Public Service Media and Democracy***: Prague, 10-11 November
- **EU Media Literacy Expert Group** on 15 November 2016 in Brussels
- **ERGA Plenary Meeting** which will be held in Brussels on **November 29th**

Further information on these and other events will be available in the Chairperson's end-of-year report for 2016, as well as in the Chairperson's report which will be prepared for our plenary meeting in Edinburgh.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our hosts, the National Commission on Television and Radio of Armenia, for so kindly agreeing to organize the meeting here in Yerevan and I wish you all a productive meeting.

Celene Craig, Chairperson