

**45<sup>th</sup> EPRA Meeting Edinburgh**  
**18-19 May 2017**  
**Working Group II**  
**Licensing and Authorisation Procedures**

**Summary of the Working group**  
**by Francesco di Giorgi, AGCOM (IT)**

Following the approach defined in the [introduction paper](#), the session focused on the best practices and practical difficulties encountered by regulatory authorities with Licensing and Authorisation Procedures for **linear audiovisual media services** leaving the discussion about on demand audiovisual media services for the upcoming meeting in Vienna which will take place on 12 October.

After an introduction by Working group Chair **Mónica Ariño, Gilles Fontaine**, Head of Department for Market Information at the [European Audiovisual Observatory](#), delivered [an introductory presentation](#), illustrating, in a very concrete manner:

- the diversity of some of the practices relating to licensing and authorisation procedures in Europe - for example some countries require information on the language of the service and others not, and how some countries require additional registration or notification in some circumstances, including for channels licensed elsewhere (for example for DTT channels where spectrum frequencies are used);
- the challenges that co-existing different systems may raise in practice, notably for a comparative approach;
- the concrete methodological solutions that MAVISE analysts have adopted for the sake of consistency of the information and data provided by the MAVISE database.

After the presentation, the Working group had a lively discussion in a roundtable format, covering two themes.

First, the group looked at the **variety of licensing procedures** for linear services, and whether or not this is a problem for regulators. The conclusion was that, whilst there were many different approaches, they were the result of specific national circumstances and it did not seem to be a problem per se.

Secondly, the round table debate focused on the **cooperation between regulatory authorities**, for example in cases of double licensing as well as cases of targeting channels. Even though the group was not able to reach any major conclusions on this one, it became clear that:

- Regulators have taken a pragmatic approach in some cross-border cases, and they generally cooperate well;
- The improved MAVISE database will be an extremely helpful resource for broadcasting regulators;
- It would be useful for regulators to have a better understanding of the specific licensing approaches taken in other countries.

Against this background, the mapping exercise of licensing and registration systems for audiovisual media services in the EU-28 member States that the European Audiovisual Observatory will conduct in the next months was welcomed by participants. Regulators signaled their willingness to contribute to the project by double-checking the information provided by national experts.

For the follow-up session in Vienna on 12 October 2017, the group will look further at the issue of cooperation - as we expect that, at that point, there will be more clarity about the new AVMSD procedures and how this will impact EU and non-EU countries. We will also consider the issue of online and VOD services, and what kind of notification/registration may be appropriate and practical.