

48th EPRA Meeting
Bratislava, 10-12 October 2018

Chairperson's Report

1. SPEAKERS, GUESTS AND OBSERVERS

I am very pleased to inform you that on this occasion, we have **142** delegates attending, representing **49** of our members. On this occasion, four of our regulatory colleagues are unable to send representatives – the National Communications Commission of Georgia; the Isle of Man Communications Commission; the Second Authority for Television and Radio, Israel, and the Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (FICORA).

I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to our guest speakers on this occasion who will share their knowledge and experience with us:

- **Henry Loeser**, Community Media Forum Europe
- **Malcolm Phillips**, ASA-CAP (UK)
- **Martyn Željko Sampor**, representing Rada Pre Reklamu (SK)
- **Deborah Williams**, Creative Diversity Network (UK)

We should not forget the external Content Producers with whom we have the privilege to work yet again on this occasion:

- **Martina Chapman**, Mercury Insights
- **Jean-François Furnémont**, Wagner-Hatfield

We also extend a warm EPRA welcome to our special guests from:

- the HACA, Morocco: **Ahmed Elattari**
- The Audiovisual Regulatory Authority of Iran: **Seyed Emamian**

As always, we are delighted to welcome representatives of our permanent observer institutions to our meeting:

- European Commission, DG-CNECT: **Anna Herold** and **Marcel Boulogne**
- European Audiovisual Observatory: **Sophie Valais** and **Agnes Schneeberger**
- Council of Europe Media and Internet Division: **Silvia Grundmann**
- OSCE Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media: **Thijs Berman**

It is a particular pleasure to welcome some new colleagues who have recently joined our member NRAs or are participating in our meeting for the first time:

- **Josip Popovac**, President, Agency for Electronic Media of the Republic of Croatia
- **Frédéric Bokobza**, Deputy Director General, CSA, France

We also welcome back our colleague, **Marie Therese Lilleborge**, Norwegian Media Authority.

2. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met in Brussels on **20 June 2018** and reviewed the outcomes of EPRA's plenary meeting held in Luxembourg in May. Of course, planning for our autumn meeting here in Bratislava was central to our discussions. We also discussed progress in the achievement of EPRA's strategic objectives and you will note that we will address one of these strategic objectives in our deliberations on Friday, 12 October next.

3. REPRESENTATION AND CO-OPERATION

- **ERGA/European Commission:** EPRA engaged in further co-operation with ERGA and the European Commission through participation in the Commission's [Digital4Her Conference](#) which took place in Brussels on **19 June**, aimed at promoting a strategy for growth and equality for women in the digital economy (including the European audiovisual sector). At a further event in Brussels on **18 September**, the EPRA Chairperson and Secretary had the pleasure of presenting its final Comparative Background Report on [Achieving Greater Diversity in Broadcasting - Special Focus on Gender](#), to Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel.
- **CDMSI:** Emmanuelle Machet, EPRA Secretary, represented EPRA at the **21 June** meeting of the [CDMSI](#), taking the opportunity to brief CDMSI members on key EPRA developments.
- **EC Media Literacy Expert Working Group**, Brussels, **15 June:** EPRA Vice-chairperson, Maria Donde, participated at a [meeting of the Expert Working Group](#) on behalf of EPRA.
- **IIC International Symposium on Converging Technologies and Disruptive Communications**, Thailand, **10-12 September:** at the invitation of the IIC, Celene Craig [addressed the Symposium on AV regulatory developments in Digital Literacy in Europe](#) and also contributed to a panel discussion on the changing face of content regulation across platforms.
- **MSI-JOQ:** Emmanuelle Machet represented EPRA at a recent meeting of the [MSI-JOQ](#) on **24-25 September** in Strasbourg, the second meeting of the Committee of Experts on Quality Journalism in the Digital Age. The meeting was also attended by EPRA Vice-chairpersons Helena Mandić and Maria Donde.
- **EU-Austrian Presidency, Federal Chancellery Conference:** [Challenging the Content](#), Vienna, **8-9 October**. Celene Craig EPRA Chairperson participated in a panel discussion on *Creating a level playing field in the audiovisual environment*.
- **Research Project:** the EPRA Board agreed to offer its support to Mr. Vaclav Stetka, of Loughborough University UK, to a grant application to the Economic and Social Research Council UK for a project on news consumption, political polarization and illiberal democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. The research (which will be conducted over three years: 2019-2021) will, if successful, include the participation of key regulatory bodies, journalists' association and civil society organisations. The aim of the project is to engage with policymakers and media regulators and to influence the contemporary debate on polarized digital media environment.

4. EPRA STAFFING

In 2017, Members endorsed a proposal of the Executive board to strengthen EPRA's support structures including its staffing and budgetary arrangements and to increase EPRA's overall sustainability. I am happy to report that the implementation of the staffing proposal has progressed with the Council of Europe in conjunction with the strong support of the European Audiovisual Observatory. The application process, which involves a number of different phases, has commenced and we are hopeful that the process will conclude early in 2019.



Celene Craig, Chairperson