

Digital Single Market

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Inaugural Meeting of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA)

The European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services has met on 4 March in Brussels for the first time.

It was attended by 27 heads or high level representatives of EU independent [national regulatory authorities for audiovisual media services](#) [1]. Lichtenstein and Norway as well as the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) attended the meeting in the capacity of observer. The [agenda](#) [2] and the [minutes](#) [3] of the meeting are available here.

[The Group](#) [4] elected its chair and two vice-chairs and adopted the [rules of procedure](#) [5]. Mr Olivier Schrameck – President of the French 'Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel' was elected as chair, while Prof. mr.dr. Madeleine de Cock Buning, President of the Dutch 'Commissariaat voor de Media' and Mr Jan Dworak, President of the Polish 'Krajowa Rada Radiofonii i Telewizji' were elected vice-chairs.

The first chair and vice-chairs are elected up until the end of the Group's work in 2015 and from that moment on, the chair and the vice-chairs will be elected for a period of 12 months.

The European Commission has formally established a group of EU Regulatory Authorities in the field of Audiovisual Media Services on 3 February 2014. The Group brings together heads or high level representatives of national independent regulatory bodies in the field of audiovisual services, to advise the Commission in implementing the EU's [Audiovisual Media Services Directive \(AVMSD\)](#) [6] in a [converge](#) [7]d media age.

Europe's broadcast and audiovisual landscape is changing: content is increasingly distributed and viewed across borders and created, distributed and viewed online. (see [IP/13/358](#) [8]) This creates special regulatory challenges and makes it crucial to guarantee closer and more regular cooperation between the independent regulatory bodies of Member States and between them and the Commission.

The European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services will advise and assist the Commission in its work to ensure consistent implementation of the AVMSD and other related fields in which the Commission can act. It will facilitate cooperation between regulatory bodies in the EU, and will also

allow for an exchange of experience and good practice.

In its 2013 [report](#) [9], the independent [High Level Group \(HLG\) on Media Freedom and Pluralism](#) [10] recommended the formalisation of cooperation between regulatory bodies in the field of audiovisual media services to share common good practice and setting quality standards. Moreover, the majority of respondents to the [public consultation on the independence of audiovisual regulatory bodies](#) [11] supported the view that cooperation between regulatory bodies is crucial in the convergent environment. They also supported the legally mandated gathering of these authorities at European level. The [European Council](#) [12] held in November 2013 also invited Member States to ensure the independence of their audiovisual regulatory bodies and Commission to strengthen cooperation between regulatory authorities in the field of audiovisual media services.

Background

Millions of Europeans catch up with their favourite TV series on a smartphone on the way to work, watch online content on their living room TV, or put their own user-generated content online. There are more than 40.4 million "connected TVs" in Europe, and they could be in the majority of EU households by 2016.

The formal group of EU Regulatory Authorities in the field of Audiovisual Media Services will complement the work of the [Contact Committee](#) [13] which was established by Article 29 AVMSD. The Contact Committee is chaired by the Commission and composed of representatives of the authorities of the Member States. It may be convened at the request of any of the delegations. The Contact Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the Directive and the developments in the sector and as a forum for the exchange of views. It deals not only with the existing audiovisual policy but also with the relevant developments arising in this sector.

Useful links

[Connected TV](#) [14]

[Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#) [15]

[The European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services](#) [16]

Hash Tags: #connectedTV; #convergence; #ERGA

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[6] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd>

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[8] http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-358_en.htm

[9] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/HLG_Final_Report.pdf

[10] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/high-level-group-media-freedom-and-pluralism>

[11]

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/news/public-consultation-independence-audiovisual-regulatory-bodies-read-contributions>

[12] http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/139725.pdf

[13] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/avmsd-contact-committee>

[14] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/connectedTV>

[15] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd>

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