



Declaration

For an overhaul of the audiovisual regulation in the digital environment

The authorities members of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA), gathered for a plenary assembly in Marseille on 16 and 17 November 201 on the occasion of the Network's 20th anniversary.

Committed, in line with the Barcelona Declaration of 27 and 28 November 1995, to the **common cultural and historical heritage** that forms the basis of the **Mediterranean civilisation**;

Reaffirming **the ongoing and relevant nature of the common principles** outlined in 2008 in the Marrakesh-Reggio Calabria Declaration on the regulation of audiovisual content, i.e. respect for human beings, the fight against incitement to hatred and violence, the fight against discrimination, maintaining the rule of law, protecting childhood and adolescence, honesty of information, and pluralism of opinions;

Convinced that freedom of audiovisual communication can contribute to **tackle the multiple challenges that currently faces the region as a whole**: economic development, migration challenges, political pluralism, terrorist threats;

In this context, particularly highlighting the **authorities' mission to ensure that audiovisual media services support social cohesion, in particular** through media literacy, through sustained attention to equality between women and men and to the fight against all forms of discrimination, by promoting diversity and media coverage adapted to crisis situations;

Aware of the fact that **rapid and profound changes** in audiovisual communication in the digital era have given rise to **new opportunities and issues**, particularly due to multiple ways of accessing media and audiovisual content, the development of new usages, and the cross-border circulation of services and data;

Considering **the growing role of video-sharing platforms, social networks, and livestreaming services** in informing the public as well as shaping public opinion and cultural references, especially for younger **generations**;

Considering that access to media and audiovisual content via **algorithms** should not be at the expense of diversity of opinions and the promotion of cultural diversity, especially within cultures where the Mediterranean basin is considered as a melting pot;

Agreeing on the need to **adapt the scope and forms of regulation** to the digital environment, in order to ensure respect for the fundamental principles shared by Mediterranean regulators;

Attentive, as a result, to various initiatives aiming at adapting the audiovisual legal framework to the digital environment, such as the ongoing work taking place at the European level ;

Commit themselves, by this Declaration and in accordance with the attributions acknowledged in respect of each one of them, **to working together resolutely in favor of an audiovisual regulation that is adapted to the digital era and its democratic requirements, especially its objective of social cohesion, which is more than ever shared across the Mediterranean area.**

The member authorities of the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities thus commit themselves, in accordance with their attributions, to:

- **adapt their regulatory practices and tools, by ensuring that all audiovisual-communication stakeholders are associated to their work**, especially the new digital service provider;
- **bring together and share their knowledge and digital regulation practices, by strengthening their co-operation within the MNRA and on a bilateral basis;**
- **continue and deepen the MNRA's work** on adapting audiovisual legal frameworks to the digital age;
- **make that work available to public authorities** as well as regional and international authorities, to input their reflection about the challenges of audiovisual communication in the digital era.

MNRA, 19th Plenary Assembly, Marseille, France, 17 November 2017