



25 May 2016

ERGA-press release on the proposal by the European Commission to revise the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)

ERGA welcomes the proposals from the European Commission for the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. ERGA is pleased to have supported the policy-making process so far. It has published several recent reports on key topics that the Commission has now made proposals on.

ERGA made recommendations on how to secure a more consistent protection of minors against harmful content regardless of whether programmes are broadcasted on television or provided by video-on-demand services. This will help all parents in the EU to create a safer environment for their children.

ERGA also made recommendations on the independence of media regulators, which are reflected in the proposals. As recent developments within the EU have showed, the independence of national media regulators cannot be taken for granted.

ERGA welcomes steps being taken in these areas, and many others where there are shared objectives.

The scope of the AVMS Directive was one of the key issues ERGA looked at. Since the current Directive was adopted eight years ago, the European audiovisual sector has evolved rapidly. In the light of ERGA's reports on material jurisdiction and territorial jurisdiction, ERGA looks forward to advising on the practical challenges of the proposals to make the Directive more future-proof.

The proposals include a formal recognition and increased role for ERGA itself. ERGA takes this as a vote of confidence in its capabilities, and will consider the implications of this expanded role.

As we move on to the legislative phase, ERGA will look to bring a unique perspective to the debate: that of the day-to-day experiences and challenges of media regulators on the ground and the practical consequences of the new AVMS proposals. ERGA plans to publish further recommendations on the future regulatory and implementation challenges of these proposals.

ERGA looks forward to further constructive engagement with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council, and with the wider community of stakeholders, leading to the swift adoption of a new directive.

Notes for Editors

The European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services consists of the national regulatory authorities in the field of audiovisual media services. ERGA advises the European Commission and facilitates cooperation between the regulatory bodies in the EU.

Madeleine de Cock Buning, President of the Dutch Media Authority, is the Chair of ERGA in 2016. The spokesperson of the Chair, Joop Veen, can be contacted at + 31 6 53360029.