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Press release

20th ERGA Plenary: European media regulators look into the future, from the implementation of the DSA to the introduction of the EMFA

On December 14th, ERGA members met for the group's second Plenary meeting of the year, taking stock of the activities of the group in 2023 and preparing the work for the coming year. This was the occasion to look back at the extensive work carried out by ERGA in the various fields and to consider the priorities of ERGA for the year ahead.

During 2023 the transposition and implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive further progressed, the Digital Services Act (DSA) started entering into force, and the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation showed its impact. At the same time, the European co-legislators were engaged in negotiations on the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) and on the Regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising, reaching political agreements on both files before the end of the year.

These new legal acts will enter into force in 2024. Reflecting on these developments, ERGA had previously adopted an ambitious work programme for 2024, which was further discussed at the plenary, when looking ahead at the next year. In 2024, ERGA will dedicate subgroups to, respectively, the implementation of the AVMSD, the EMFA, and the strengthened Code of Practice, while devoting an additional subgroup to the implementation of the DSA and the DMA and to the cross-border regulatory cooperation, whose importance will be paramount under the new legal framework. In addition, an action group will deal with media literacy and a communications group will handle external communication and - for the first time - draft an annual report of the group.

Representatives of the Audiovisual Council of Moldova (AC) and of the National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine (NRADA), were welcomed for the first time at an ERGA plenary, after having just recently joined ERGA as observers.

Giacomo Lasorella, President of the Italian regulator, AGCOM, who was elected as ERGA Chair for a second term in 2024, stated that *"a regulatory revolution is taking place after Europe launched an unprecedented legislative review to meet the digital transformation challenges in the media landscape. ERGA and the national audiovisual regulatory authorities are ready and fully committed to support the*

European Commission to monitor the implementation of the new legislative provisions and to contribute to their enforcement.” Reacting to the political agreement on EMFA reached among the European Parliament and the Council on 15 December, Chairman Lasorella emphasized that “*we wish to express our gratitude for the trust given to ERGA as the future European Board for Media Services. ERGA and its members stand ready to take on the new missions entrusted to it by EMFA, to promote and preserve media freedom, pluralism and editorial independence throughout the European Union as a key pillar of our democracies*”.

In addition to Mr. Lasorella’s confirmation as ERGA Chair, the ERGA plenary also marked the election of Carlos Aguilar Paredes (Member of the Board of the Spanish CNMC) as Vice-Chair and Susanne Lackner (Vice-Chair of the Austrian KommAustria), Karim Ibourki (President of the Belgian CSA) and Niamh Hodnett (Commissioner of the Irish Coimisiún na Meán) as Members of the ERGA Board.

About ERGA:

The European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) 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. Mr Giacomo Lasorella, President of the Italian AGCOM (Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni) is the current Chairperson of ERGA.