

INVITATION:

INDICATORS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF AVMS REGULATORY BODIES - PUBLIC WORKSHOP -

Study commissioned by the European Commission,
Directorate General Information Society and Media, Unit A1:
“Indicators for independence and efficient functioning of audiovisual media services regula-
tory bodies for the purpose of enforcing the rules in the AVMS Directive”
(*SMART 2009/0001*)

Public workshop conducted by
Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research,
Interdisciplinary Centre for Law & ICT (ICRI), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven,
Center for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS), Central European University,
Cullen International and
Perspective Associates

31st January 2011, 10:00 to 17:00 - Brussels, CCAB, Room 4 A.

The meeting will be held on 31st January 2011 in Brussels, Albert Borschette Conference Centre (CCAB), Rue Froissart 36, from 10.00 to 17.00, Room 4 A.

Translation services will be provided from DE, EN, FR into DE, EN, FR.

The three general objectives of the study are (1) a detailed legal description and analysis of the audiovisual media services regulatory bodies in the Member States, in candidate and potential candidate countries to the European Union and in the EFTA countries as well as four non-European countries, (2) an analysis of the effective implementation of the legal framework in these countries and (3) the identification of key characteristics constituting an “independent regulatory body” in the light of the AVMS Directive.

The study started in February 2010; the final report will be compiled by the end of February 2011.

The main focus of this public workshop is the presentation and discussion of the preliminary final report. Registered participants of the workshop will receive a copy in due time.

The project team will present the approach and methodology of the study, its underlying working definition of independence and the outcome of analysing both formal and de facto frameworks of AVMS regulators in 43 countries. In the afternoon the findings of the study regarding key characteristics of independent regulatory bodies within the scope of the AVMS Directive as well as an online tool for the self-assessment of independence and effective functioning will be presented.

The project team and the Commission hope to receive feedback for the compilation of the final report. Input on the topics mentioned in the attached agenda is appreciated in particular.

If you are interested in participating in this seminar **please register at <http://www.indireg.eu>**.
(Please be aware that due to security reasons it is important to register each participating person separately).

Please be aware that places for the workshop are limited, so we advise you to register as soon as possible. If necessary, participants will be accepted according to the order in which the registration has been made and/or participation will be limited to one representative per organisation.

Access upon confirmation by Email only !

Participation will be confirmed by Email. Please bring a printout of your invitation and the confirmation form you received from us with you as only they will give you access to the conference.

Additional information on the objectives and course of the study and the project team can also be found at <http://www.indireg.eu>

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Agenda

Morning session: 10:00 to 13:00

I. Opening of the meeting / Introduction

1. **Opening of the meeting by Mr. Jean-Eric de Cockborne, Head of Unit, Audiovisual and Media Policies – DG Information Society and Media**
2. **Welcome and presentation of workshop agenda**
(Wolfgang Schulz, project leader, Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research)

II. Framework and status quo

1. **Independence and regulatory agencies in Europe**
(Mark Thatcher, The London School of Economics and Political Sciences, Member of INDIREG Advisory Board)
2. **Methodology and Theoretical Framework: Developing a working definition of independence**
(Wolfgang Schulz, project leader, HBI)
3. **Status quo: Analysis of institutional, regulatory and legal frameworks of AVMS regulators in 43 countries**
(Michele Ledger, Cullen International)
4. **De facto independence: Analysis of practical implementation and effectiveness**
(Kristina Irion, CEU)
5. **Discussion of sec. II**

Lunch break from 13:00 to 14.30

Afternoon session: 14:30 to 17:00

III. Key characteristics of independent regulatory bodies

1. **Independence and the AVMS Directive: Sector-specific requirements of independence and efficient functioning**
(David Stevens, ICRI – K.U.Leuven)
2. **Putting it all together: Essential characteristics and best practice characteristics**
(Wolfgang Schulz, project leader, HBI)
3. **Discussion of sec. III**

IV. Presentation of a ranking tool for the self-assessment of independence and effective functioning

1. **Presentation of the ranking tool: Possibilities, usage and limitations**
(Michele Ledger, Cullen International)
2. **Discussion of sec. IV and final discussion**