



SECRETARIAT

AS/Cult (2022) CB 07

29 November 2022

To the members of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

Synopsis of the Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society meeting held in Vilnius (Lithuania) on 21 November 2022

The **Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society** (of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media), meeting in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius, **on Monday 21 November 2022** from 9 am to 5 pm, with Lord George Foulkes (United Kingdom, SOC), the oldest member present, in the chair, as regards:

- **Opening of the meeting:** heard welcome speeches by Mr Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairperson of the Lithuanian delegation to PACE, and Lord George Foulkes, Chair in office of the Sub-Committee;
- **Agenda:** adopted the agenda;
- **Minutes:** approved the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022;
- **Countering SLAPPs: an imperative for a democratic society** (*Rapporteur: Mr Stefan Schennach, Austria, SOC*)
and
Guaranteeing media freedom and the safety of journalists: an obligation of member States (*Rapporteur Mr Mogens Jensen, Denmark, SOC*):

held a joint hearing with the participation of Meaghan Fitzgerald, Head of Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Election Department, OSCE; Ricardo Gutierrez, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists; Krisztina Rozgonyi, Senior Scientist, Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies (CMC), Austrian Academy of Sciences; Boris Bergant, Consultant, European Broadcasting Union;

- **Public regulation of the freedom of expression in digital platforms:** considered a motion for a resolution (Doc. 15555) tabled by Mr George Katrougalos and other members of the Assembly; noted that this issue had been dealt with in depth and from various angles in several recent texts (including Resolution 2454 of 23 June 2022), and expressed the opinion that the committee could ask the Bureau to refer this motion for resolution to the committee to take it into account in the context of the report on "Propaganda and freedom of speech in Europe", while indicating that it would be the competent committee in the case of a reference for report.
- **Ongoing activities, priorities, and emerging issues in the field of media and information society:** held an exchange of views with the participation of Patrick Penninckx, Head of Department, Information Society, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law; identified as priority issues for new reports: media concentration and threats to media pluralism, and media freedom in sports.
- **Next meeting**
decided on the forthcoming meeting as follows:
 - 1st part-session 2023 (23-27 January 2023)

... / ...

- **Conference on “Public Service Media for Democracy”**: attended the conference, which was co-organised by the Council of Europe and the European Broadcasting Union on Tuesday 22 November 2022, in partnership with the Lithuanian National Radio and Television in the *Seimas*.

Roberto Fasino, Marc Gruber

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe