



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **PARTIES**

**Autorità per le garanzie nelle comunicazioni (AGCOM)**, located in Via Isonzo 21/b, Roma, Italy, represented by its Board Member, Mr. Antonio Martusciello,

and

**National Media Council for Audio-Visual (CNA)**, located in Hamra, Beirut, Lebanon, represented by its Chairman, Mr. Abdel Hadi Mahfouz,

### **BACKGROUND**

AGCOM is the Italian independent authority for the communications sector, established by Law n. 249 of 31 July 1997, whose main tasks are to ensure equitable conditions for fair market competition and to protect fundamental rights of all citizens in the audiovisual, electronic communications and postal sectors.

CNA is an advisory body to the Council of Ministers, under the Ministry of Information, established in 1996 in accordance with Article 19 of Law No. 382/1994 on Radio and Television Broadcasting. Its aim is to ensure the freedom, independence and diversity of broadcast mass media, their licensing and monitoring, as well as the oversight of television and radio companies

### **HEREBY AGREE ON WHAT FOLLOWS:**

**Article (1):** This Memorandum intends to develop and strengthen the working relations between AGCOM and CNA.

**Article (2):** Fields of cooperation:

- a) Revision and comparison of the audiovisual legal and regulatory frameworks, with focus on:
  - Pluralism and freedom of speech;



- Regulation of broadcasting during electoral campaigns;
  - Protection of minors;
  - Hate speech and ban of racism;
  - Advertising;
  - The evolution of technology applied to the audiovisual media
  - The regulation of VoD and Web-Tv channels
  - Tools and systems aimed at monitoring the channels, especially during electoral campaigns;
  - Future developments of the audiovisual media regulation at European and international level;
- b) Regulation of convergent services, connected TV, OTT and new media;
- c) Analysis and comparison of the AGCOM and CNA institutional setup, mission and competences;
- d) Assistance and cooperation in standard operating procedures and data collection management tools and databases; design of data collection instruments.

**Article (3):** The joint actions conducted under this Memorandum of Understanding may include:

- sharing information and documentation about regulatory, economic and technical rules and procedures in the field of audiovisual and convergent services;
- providing mutual technical assistance and showing the best practices adopted;
- organisation of round tables, bilateral meetings and working groups;
- organisation of training sessions;
- assessment on the possible use of tools for setting up bilateral and multilateral cooperation patterns, with the financial assistance of the European Commission.

**Article (4):** Each party at the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding will designate a representative who will be in charge of the actions led in his organization in the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.

**Article (5):** The parties agree that this document is not intended to create legal relations between AGCOM and CNA. They both promise however to use all reasonable endeavors in good faith to fulfill the objectives and commitments made in this Memorandum.

**Article (6):** The parties may modify the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding by an exchange of letters.

ENTRY INTO FORCE



This Memorandum shall become effective when signed by the representatives of the two NRAs and may be modified upon mutual understanding of the parties. It shall be valid for 2 years and may be terminated by each party after 30 days prior written notice.

For correspondence related to the implementation of the present Memorandum AGCOM and CNA shall use English language.

Signed in Beirut on September 18, 2017

Mr. Abdel Hadi Mahfouz

CNA Chairman

Antonio Martusciello

AGCOM Board Member