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ERGA welcomes the objectives of the EMFA proposal and highlights the importance to secure an effective independence and adequate resources for its implementation

The European Commission published on 16th of September its proposal for a European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), a major legislative project. European citizens who have access to free and pluralistic media can form their informed opinions and fruitfully participate in democratic debate. In this regard, a well-functioning internal market for media is essential and can help foster media freedom and pluralism.

ERGA shares the objectives of the Commission particularly with regard to the harmonisation of certain elements of the national media pluralism framework (that should follow, to the extent possible, a principle-based approach), the increased regulatory cooperation and convergence, the facilitation of the provision of quality media services free from editorial interference, as well as a transparent and fair allocation of financial resources.

ERGA also welcomes the proposed new structure under the new legal framework, which should transform ERGA into the European Board for Media Services. This new Board should replace the current coordinating group and receive new tasks and responsibilities, therefore being granted a central role in the implementation of the new framework.

At the same time, ERGA recalls some fundamental elements highlighted in its contribution to the European Commission [public consultation earlier this year](#). In particular, the new Board should be independent from any kind of interference, be it at national or European level. Guaranteeing this independence is essential for achieving the objectives of EMFA, which aims to safeguard a free and pluralistic media landscape. In addition, it is crucial that the future Board and all its members are equipped with adequate human and financial resources to effectively carry out all new tasks and implement the new rules.

ERGA will now thoroughly analyse the proposal in the coming weeks and adopt a common position, with the aim of contributing to the discussions of the co-legislators during the legislative process.

“The publication of the Media Freedom Act by the Commission is an important milestone in the strengthening of core European values. Now, all the involved actors, including ERGA, need to work together to contribute to the co-legislators work to effectively improve this ambitious piece of legislation. A reinforced and independent ERGA is crucial to guarantee the effective implementation of the EMFA. At

the same time, we cannot neglect the independent national regulatory authorities that are the drivers of ERGA. Therefore, their resources, both in terms of staff and financial means should be strengthened. We hope that in the coming discussions the co-legislators will listen to us and take these vital requirements into account”, said Karim Ibourki, ERGA Chair.

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 Karim Ibourki, President of the Belgian CSA (Conseil supérieur de l’audiovisuel) is the current Chairperson of ERGA.