

REGULATION ON CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION TO CONFRONT PROPAGANDA

The national self-regulatory bodies of the Media Self-Regulatory Organizations Network have agreed on the establishment of a Consultative Commission to Confront Propaganda and the following principles for its activities:

- 1.** The Commission shall only consider appeals related to propaganda.
- 2.** When considering complaints, the Commission shall be guided by the Recommendations of the Network and national codes of ethics of the country whose media received the complaint. In cases involving transnational broadcasts - by the Recommendations of the Network and the principles established in the corresponding documents of the Council of Europe (Appendix 1).
- 3.** National self-regulatory bodies shall delegate an authorized representative to the Commission.
- 4.** Appeals to the Commission shall be exclusively submitted by national self-regulatory bodies:
 - a. Based on a complaint from an individual or organization whose interests were hurt;
 - b. At their own initiative.
- 5.** A self-regulatory body that submits an appeal to the Commission shall prepare all the necessary documents for consideration and submit them to the secretary of the Network and the national self-regulatory body of the party against which the complaint was filed.
- 6.** The moderator at Commission meeting shall be the chairman of the Network (with no right to vote if this person is not a Commission member).
- 7.** The current chairman of the Network shall inform all Network members about an appeal and schedule a start date for its discussion within two weeks.
- 8.** The Commission shall accept appeals for complaints submitted to national self-regulatory bodies for consideration within 3 months.
- 9.** Appeal consideration timeframe: no more than 2 months for the Commission to prepare and send its opinion to the Network.
- 10.** Rules for consideration:
 - a. The Commission shall inform the media outlet against which the appeal was filed and invite the outlet to provide the necessary explanations;
 - b. The Commission shall consider the appeal in electronic discussion mode (via email, social networks, Skype).

11. The Commission representatives delegated by the party that submitted an appeal and the party against which the complaint is filed shall not take part in formulating the Commission's opinion.
12. If a moderator of a Commission meeting has a conflict of interests (if the moderator represents the party that submitted an appeal or the party against which a complaint was filed), the moderator's functions shall pass to an authorized member of the Commission in accordance with the Regulation of the Network.
13. Decisions shall be adopted based on the "consensus - 1 vote" principle. In addition, a Commission member who votes against a decision shall be entitled to attach his/her comments to the voting opinion.
14. The Commission's final opinion shall be sent to the Network secretary and distributed to the national self-regulatory bodies.
15. The Network's national self-regulatory bodies must publish the Commission's opinion on their official pages/websites or using another method.

***Adopted on June 17, 2016
at MSON annual meeting in Georgia***