

FINAL RESOLUTION OF COPEAM 23rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The COPEAM General Assembly gathered in Beirut on May 13, 2017. On the occasion of this 23rd Ordinary Session and having regard to

- the Association By-Laws
- the Sevilla Charter approved on 7 May 2005

COPEAM and its members

- ✓ Reaffirm their commitment for media freedom, access to information, freedom of expression and pluralism as pillars of democratic societies;
- ✓ Underline the dangers that the increasing disinformation and misinformation, and the viral dissemination of fake news, in many different forms and through various tools, could undermine the notion of information and the citizens' trust in the information providers, with growing risk of manipulation and of fostering divisions between cultures, religions and communities;
- ✓ Acknowledge that the fast changing technological and industrial media landscape and the new consumption habits require the development of new competencies and a broader view on the media narrative;
- ✓ Underline the importance of reinforcing awareness-raising activities, media education and information literacy in the Mediterranean Region, with a view to empowering citizens to critically analyse and understand the media content;
- ✓ Underline the growing need for qualified and professional journalism, responsible fact-checking and reporting – starting from qualifying educational and training programmes for both young and experienced information professionals – to ensure high quality editorial, ethical and technical standards in the new digital world;
- ✓ Believe that the public service media should provide plural and impartial information, in compliance with the best practices and ethics of journalism, even by implying innovative formats and languages to target more effectively the younger audiences.

Starting from these assumptions, COPEAM members

- ✓ Will take consistent actions against hate speech, incitement to violence and discrimination on all their media platforms;
- ✓ Underline the need for specific training for journalists on the use of social networks and fact-checking to face the challenges and risks posed by the present multiplatform global scenario;
- ✓ Welcome the recent examples of concrete cooperation initiated by traditional and new/social media in this field and wish that similar good practices could be also specifically activated in the Mediterranean Region, answering the current digital transition challenges;
- ✓ Call for a cross-sector collaboration and exchange between all relevant actors in the field (NGOs, civil society, press agencies, digital and social media, cinema/visual arts schools and professionals, national and international institutions) to plan up common initiatives in favour of the development of a new Mediterranean storytelling through the media;
- ✓ Stress the importance of developing new formats and of merging different languages (documentaries, docu-fictions, cross-media products like web-docs, etc.) to deliver information to the public, in order to be more effective in telling and explaining the current complexities;
- ✓ Bring the attention on the need for further institutional funding at both national and international levels (ex. European Neighbourhood Policy - ENP) to enhance audiovisual and media cooperation with regard to media independence and pluralism, public service development, support to the media digital transition.

COPEAM will undertake operational steps in order to turn this Resolution into concrete actions.

Beirut, 13 May 2017