

**PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN AUDIOVISUAL OPERATORS  
(Co.Pe.A.M.)**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION**

**CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY  
AND  
BY-LAWS**

*Cairo, 13<sup>th</sup> January 1996*

*and amendments following the Extraordinary General Assembly  
(Zagreb, 3 April 2020 and 24 June 2021)*

# DECLARATION

## **WE THE UNDERSIGNED:**

### **- representatives of the following broadcasting bodies (present in person or by delegation):**

ARD/SFB (Germany), ARD/WDR (Germany), BNT (Bulgaria), CCRTV (Catalonia), CYBC (Cyprus), ERT (Greece), ERTT<sup>1</sup> (Tunisia), ERTU<sup>2</sup> (Egypt), Euronews, FT2 (France) and FT3<sup>3</sup> (France), HIRT (Croatia), IBA (Israel), The 2nd Television and Radio Authority (Israel), JRTV (Jordan), LJB (Libya), MKRTV (FYROM/Macedonia), 2M (Morocco), PBC (Palestine), PBS (Malta), RAI (Italy), RMC (Monaco), RTM<sup>4</sup> (Morocco), RTVR<sup>5</sup> (Romania), RTVSH (Albania), RTVS (Slovenia), TL (Lebanon), and TVE<sup>6</sup> (Spain);

### **- of the following international Organizations:**

Council of Europe, North-South Centre;

### **- representatives of the following cultural and research Institutions:**

Centre & Evaluation et de Formation pour les Innovations et la Solidarité (CEFIS), University of the Mediterranean (UNIMED), Communauté des Universités Méditerranéennes (CUM), Centre Regional Documentation Pédagogique de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (CRDP);

### **- representatives of the following professional Organizations in the audiovisual sector:**

European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Université de Radiotélévision internationale (URTI), INTERMAG, Institut national de l'audiovisuel (INA), Centre Méditerranéen pour la communication audiovisuelle (CMCA), Co-operative Internationale de la Recherche et d'Action en matière de Communication (CIRCOM), Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU);

### **- representatives of the following international non-governmental Associations:**

Centro Salesiano sulla Comunicazione, LHIA (Little Heart International Association) Centre; Eurovisioni, Conseil international du cinéma, de la télévision et de la communication audiovisuelle (CICT), Italian Association for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF);

### **- representatives of the following professional firms:**

Scènes de Villes, Jordan Studios, Laser, Sunny Side of the Docs, Les Films du Tambour de Soie, Les Films du Soleil, Middle East Broadcasting Centre;

### **- and the following individual members:**

Mr. Matouz El Moghaz (Areen Film Studio), Mr. El Sheikh Mammoud Salem. Mr. Hamdy Kandil (ART), Ms. Magda Bagnied (American University of Cairo), Mr. Mostafa El Shafei (Alexandria International Media Centre), Mr. Mikko Lokihoshi (European Campaign against Racism and Intolerance), Mr. Jawad Maraqa (Mass Media Export), Mr. Alfred Mikhail, Mr. Giulio C. Giordano and Mr. Giacomo Mazzone.

**THE FOUNDING MEMBERS, meeting in assembly today in order to set up a non-profit organization, have unanimously decided as follows:**

## **ARTICLE 1 - AN ORGANIZATION IS CREATED**

---

<sup>1</sup> Now *Télévision Tunisienne* and *Radio Tunisienne*

<sup>2</sup> Now *National Media Authority (NMA)*

<sup>3</sup> Now *France Télévisions*

<sup>4</sup> Now *Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision (SNRT)*

<sup>5</sup> Now *Radio Romania* et *Societatea Română de Televiziune (TVR)*

<sup>6</sup> *Corporación de Radio y Televisión Española (RTVE)*

The undersigned hereby create a non-profit, inter-professional Organization, which shall be joined by any other body subscribing to these Articles.

## **ARTICLE 2 - NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The Organization shall bear the following name:

PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF MEDITERRANEAN  
AUDIOVISUAL OPERATORS  
(Co.Pe.A.M.)

## **ARTICLE 3 - PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Co.Pe.A.M., a non-profit organization, shall engage in fostering the cultural context of the Mediterranean region through every present or future audiovisual medium.

Its mission shall include among others:

**3.1.** Acting as a common and recognizable interlocutor vis-à-vis intergovernmental institutions - especially the European Union and the Council of Europe - as well as such specialized international agencies and international bodies engaged in specific activities in the economic, social, educational and environmental spheres in the Mediterranean region, as have made known their interest in a coordinated contribution by the media in general and radio and television operators in particular.

**3.2.** Reaffirming and upholding the idea that it is for the media and the entire media industry to give a tangible contribution to help make the Mediterranean a forum for cultural exchange, economic cooperation, mutual understanding and acceptance among peoples with different ethnic, political and religious backgrounds sharing the region as their common home who yet must, even in the face of migration, preserve and safeguard their own identities.

**3.3.** Playing the role of mediator in such difficult and controversial situations as may arise, and, better yet, provide support for the process of adaptation by immigrant minorities to the social and cultural contexts of their host countries, through information, magazine and other special types of programmes (documentaries, "shorts", etc.), driven by the awareness of the problems presented by immigration and the necessity to foster a mutual acquaintance between the cultures of an immigrant's host country and country of origin and the ability for both old and new residents to live together in peace.

**3.4.** Taking an active part-especially through radio and television media-in the humanitarian and environmental campaigns launched for the Mediterranean basin by national, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies.

**3.5.** Maintaining contact with other organizations of audiovisual media operators, so that they may give their due attention to the cultural, ethical and moral values of European and Mediterranean cultures.

**3.6.** Associating audiovisual media operators, whether public or private, in the Euro-Mediterranean area, as well as anyone-whether an individual or a body corporate-with an interest in turning to account the cultures of the Mediterranean through audiovisual media.

**3.7.** Developing, for its members and the public, such information and communication tools and audiovisual resource as may help promote the knowledge of Mediterranean cultures.

**3.8.** Providing a permanent forum for debate and active cooperation among all those-whether within or outside of the organization-showing an interest in its mission, with a view to carrying out actions, on one hand, focused on training and professional cooperation, and, on the other, aimed at producing and broadcasting such audiovisual works as may become veritable "symbols" of the Euro-Mediterranean cultural context.

**3.9.** Facilitating and promoting every production project submitted by one or more of its members.

**3.10.** Setting up programmes and mechanisms to help audiovisual creation through partnership agreements with national or international institutions, local authorities, public and private enterprises, foundations, Chambers of Commerce, financial institutions, etc., in order to offer professionals the possibility of developing audiovisual production in the Euro-Mediterranean area, especially, and without limitation, in the area of creative documentaries and magazine programmes.

**3.11.** Fostering the creation of a Mediterranean cultural heritage by encouraging its members and any willing individual or organization to support the broadcasting of existing audiovisual programmes.

**3.12.** Organizing actions and campaigns aimed at promoting and fostering research and the cooperation among its members, as well as outsiders capable of facilitating Co.Pe.A.M.'s mission.

**3.13.** Setting up and ultimately managing other services and liaison offices in any country upon request. Those services and liaison officer would be of a such a nature capable to strengthen relations between the Organization and the hosting country and at the same time improving Co.Pe.A.M.'s image and impact on the outside world.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office of the Organization is in Rome (Italy) with address at the offices of the General Secretariat currently in Via Alberto Cadlolo 90, 00136 Rome.

The registered office may be moved should the offices of the General Secretariat be transferred elsewhere, subject to resolution by the Extraordinary General Assembly. Moreover, Co.Pe.A.M., pursuant to Article 3.13 of these Articles, reserves for itself the possibility of establishing one or more branch offices in order to ensure the performance of such activities as may require a permanent presence on a given location.

#### **ARTICLE 5 - DURATION**

The Organization shall have unlimited duration. The Organization's financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December.

#### **ARTICLE 6 - MEMBERS**

Membership in the Organization is accessible to the following:

- public service or private broadcasters;
- producers for radio, television, cinema and any other media, whether public or private;
- national, international, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions with a direct or indirect interest in audiovisual media;
- local communities in the Euro-Mediterranean area;
- the institutions of cultural, economic, environmental, and social life in the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area;
- audiovisual professionals of recognized excellence.

The Organization shall have the following categories of membership:

- Founding Members,
- Active Members,
- Associated members,
- Benefactors.

### **6.1. Founding Members**

The Founding Members shall be such individuals and corporate bodies having participated in the Constituent Assembly or having been co-opted by the Founding Members within the three months following the creation of the Organization.

The Founding Members, if they intend to continue participating in the Organization's activity, can be part of it as Active Members or Associated Members.

### **6.2. Active Members**

Active Members are individuals or corporate bodies that adhere to the Organization, take part in its activities and contribute to its development through their financial support.

### **6.3. Associated members**

Associated members are bodies corporate that, although playing no part in the running of the Organization, provide Co.Pe.A.M. with their support on a regular basis, work with special zeal at developing its activities, and receive in exchange the opportunity of enriching their administration and operations with the Organization's experience, influence and know-how.

Associated members take part only in the Organization's Ordinary General Assembly without voting rights.

### **6.4. Benefactors**

Benefactors are individuals or corporate bodies who, although playing no part in the running of the Organization, wish to finance Co.Pe.A.M.'s objectives without committing themselves to the payment of annual dues. Benefactors do not take part in the Organization's Assemblies.

## **ARTICLE 7 - ADMISSION AND LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP OR CAPACITY AS ACTIVE MEMBER, ASSOCIATED MEMBER OR BENEFACTOR**

### **7.1. Admission**

A candidate for Active Membership, Associated Membership or Benefactor is subject to the approval of the Steering Committee at the first useful meeting following the presentation of the application.

### **7.2. Loss of Membership**

Membership is terminated by:

- individuals or corporate bodies sending a written resignation to the President or to the Secretary General to the address of the Association,
- individuals or corporate bodies pronounced excluded from the Organization by the Steering Committee on account of failure to pay the Organization's dues or of a grave reason; the Steering Committee may, at its discretion, invite the interested parties to appear before the Steering Committee to explain their reasons;
- individuals deceased.

## **ARTICLE 8 - STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Organization is managed by a Steering Committee consisting of not less than 15 nor more than 17 members, who shall hold office for 4 or 2 years as provided for herein below. The Steering Committee shall consist of:

\* Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General who participate by right and remain in office for the duration of their mandate;

\* from 13 to 15 representatives of Active Members, who must be elected by the Ordinary General Assembly. In the event that the elected members are Founding Members, the mandate has a duration of 4 years, in the other cases the duration is 2 years. The mandates are renewable.

Active Members elected pursuant to this article may, from time to time, designate their representatives at the Committee meetings.

In the event of death or withdrawal, in any capacity, from the Association of a Member of the Steering Committee, the Committee has the right to replace it by co-optation.

The substitutes shall remain in office for the remainder of the term of those they are substituting.

The Steering Committee shall make decisions by simple majority vote.

The following Members shall be the first representatives of the founding members before the Steering Committee:

- ERTU and its designated representative;
- FRANCE 3 and its designated representative;
- EFITT and its designated representative;
- JFITV and its designated representative;
- IBA and its designated representative;
- PBC and its designated representative;
- URTI and its designated representative (co-opted member);
- RTVR and its designated representative (co-opted member).

The members of the Steering Committee shall serve without payment and they are not entitled to reimbursement of the expenses incurred, apart from exceptions assessed case by case by the General Secretariat. Nothing shall prevent them from receiving payment for any work entrusted to them by the Organization, provided it lies outside their terms of reference as members of the Steering Committee. The President shall inform the Committee at least once every year of payments made on that account.

## **ARTICLE 9 - BUREAU**

Every two years, the Steering Committee shall designate its Bureau, which shall consist of 6 to 9 members.

The Steering Committee shall elect for the Bureau at least:

- 1 President
- 3 Vice-Presidents

Bureau members are re-eligible.

The Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, if any, shall be ex officio members of the Bureau.

The Bureau shall meet, also on audio/video conference, whenever summoned by the President or the Secretary General. Decisions are approved by the majority of votes cast.

In case of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote. Bureau proceedings shall be recorded in minutes which shall be signed by the President and the Secretary General.

## **ARTICLE 10 - DUTIES OF BUREAU MEMBERS**

### **10.1. The President**

The President summons the Bureau and the Steering Committee meetings.

The President shall represent the Organization in all acts of civil life, with all powers inherent thereto.

In particular, the President shall have the authority to stand in court for the Organization as either defendant or plaintiff, subject to authorization by the Steering Committee, which shall decide by a plurality vote.

Subject to the same conditions, the President shall be authorized to file appeals and recourses. In order to compromise an action, the President must obtain previous authorization from the Steering Committee, which shall decide by a plurality vote.

The President shall chair all Assemblies. In case of resignation, absence or illness, the President shall be replaced by the Vice President of greatest seniority or, in case of equal seniority, of greatest age.

### **10.2. The Vice Presidents**

The Vice Presidents shall assist the President in the performance of his duties and carry out any assignment entrusted to them by the President subject to the Steering Committee's prior authorization.

The Senior Vice President – or, in case of equal seniority, the Vice President of greatest age - shall replace the President in case of resignation, absence or illness.

### **10.3. The Secretary General**

The Secretary General is elected by the Ordinary General Assembly upon nomination by the Steering Committee.

For the first time it will be elected by the Ordinary General Assembly upon nomination by the Chairman of this Assembly.

The Secretary General has all the powers for ordinary management within the bounds of the budget approved by the Steering Committee and is responsible for acting so that the decisions of the Steering Committee are followed at all times and that everything is done that is required for the normal life of the Organization. The General Secretary can convene meetings of the Steering Committee and the Bureau.

He shall regularly report to the Steering Committee.

The Secretary General shall remain in office for such a period of time as the Steering Committee may decide - said period to be in no case less than 4 years.

The Secretary General shall be either chosen from among the individuals who are members of the Organization, or assigned to that task by a corporate member of the Organization. The Secretary General need not to be a member of the Organization, and may be remunerated by the same.

The Secretary General shall be in charge of all affairs concerning the Organization's Secretariat, correspondence and records.

The Secretary General shall draw up the Minutes of the Assemblies and of the Steering Committee, and, in general, all legal documents relevant to the Organization's operations.

The Secretary General shall keep a Register of the Active Members, and a Special Register of the Associated Members and Benefactors.

The Secretary General shall, finally, see to it that all procedures are complied with as are required for non-profit organizations by the law of the country where the Organization has its registered office.

The Secretary General shall be in charge of everything concerning the management of the Organization's property. Subject to the President's control and of the Committee of Auditors, if any, the Secretary General shall pay all sums and collect all payments due to the Organization.

The Secretary General shall keep regular accounts of all transactions performed by him, and shall submit said accounts to the consideration of the Annual Ordinary General Assembly for its approval.

#### **10.4. The Deputy Secretary General**

Should it deem so fit, the Steering Committee may also appoint - and subject to the same terms as those set out in point 10.3 - a Deputy Secretary General who shall assist the Secretary General in the performance of his duties and shall replace him in case of absence. In the country where the Organization shall have its registered office, a bureau of the Secretariat shall be established.

### **ARTICLE 11 - STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Steering Committee shall meet, also on audio/video conference, when summoned by its President or Secretary General - once a year at least - and whenever so requested by one third of its members.

Steering Committee decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast; in the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

Minutes shall be kept of Steering Committee's proceedings.

The Steering Committee meeting minutes shall be signed by the President and the Secretary General.

The Bureau shall meet at need, on summons by the President or the Secretary General.

Notices of Steering Committee and Bureau meetings shall be given no less than 10 days before the date set by the President or the Secretary General.

Steering Committee and Bureau proceedings shall be recorded on special books to be initialled by the President.

### **ARTICLE 12 - POWERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Steering Committee shall have ample powers to perform, or authorize the performance of, all actions or transactions that are relevant to the object of the Organization and are not reserved for the Ordinary General Assembly.

In particular, during the period comprised between one Ordinary General Assembly and the next, the Steering Committee shall have the powers of decision required for the Organization to be able to operate normally.

The Steering Committee shall entrust the Secretary General with the carrying out of the decisions taken at its meetings and such other task as it may deem fit.

The Steering Committee shall control the activity of the executive powers of the Organization.

Upon proposal of the Secretary General, the Steering Committee shall establish the amount of the dues to be charged to members and any modification of such amounts.

The Steering Committee shall call General Assemblies.



The Steering Committee shall supervise the activity of Bureau members.

These shall, if so required by the Steering Committee, submit to it a report of their activities.

The Steering Committee shall pronounce in every case on whether to admit or expel Organization members. It is up to the Steering Committee to authorize the President and the Secretary General to execute any contract outside the ordinary administration.

Any Steering Committee decisions on the purchase, exchange and disposal of properties as are required for the purposes pursued by the Organization, as well as the mortgaging of the said properties, leases for periods exceeding nine years, disposal of goods and borrowings shall be subject to the Ordinary General Assembly's approval.

### **ARTICLE 13 - ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Ordinary General Assembly shall be comprised of all Active Members and Associated Members.

The Ordinary General Assembly shall establish the general policy lines for the Organization, as well as its medium-term goals. The Ordinary General Assembly shall meet, also on audio/video conference, at least once a year, within the six months following the closing of the previous financial year, and whenever called by the Steering Committee, or so requested by at least one fourth of its members.

Notices of Ordinary General Assembly meetings shall be sent no less than 15 days in advance of the date set out in the agenda. The agenda of Ordinary General Assembly meetings shall be established by the Steering Committee or by its Bureau.

Ordinary General Assembly meetings shall be chaired by the President. The President shall describe the Organization's general situation. The Secretary General shall submit to the Ordinary General Assembly for its approval a financial and operational report on his activity and that of the Steering Committee.

The Ordinary General Assembly shall approve the accounts for the financial year just closed, vote on the budget for the following financial year, transact the business on the agenda and proceed, if needed, to renew such members of the Steering Committee as are for it to appoint.

All Ordinary General Assembly decisions are made by a simple majority of the Active members who are present or have voted by proxy. No quorum is required.

Only the items of business included in the agenda may be decided upon.

The minutes of the Ordinary General Assembly proceedings shall be recorded in the appropriate Register by the Secretary General and signed by the Secretary General and by the President.

### **ARTICLE 14 - EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The By-Laws of the Organization may be changed by an Extraordinary General Assembly on a proposal submitted by the Steering Committee, or by at least one third of the Active Members.

In either case, the changes proposed shall be set out in the agenda of the following Extraordinary General Assembly meeting, which shall be sent to all Extraordinary General Assembly Active members at least 15 days in advance.

The Extraordinary General Assembly shall pronounce on any change in the Organization's By-Laws, as well as on any merger, transformation or dissolution of it. A majority of two-thirds of the Active members present or having voted by proxy shall be required for a decision. No quorum is required.

**ARTICLE 15 - MERGER, TRANSFORMATION, DISSOLUTION**

These matters are reserved for the exclusive competence of the Extraordinary General Assembly, under the terms set out in Article 14.

The Extraordinary General Assembly shall designate one or more administrators in charge of liquidating the Organization's assets and liabilities.

The Organization's net assets shall be made over to one or more establishments of similar nature to its own, or to any establishment of the Organization's choosing, but in no case to Organization members.

The administrators in charge of the Organization's liquidation shall be responsible for carrying out the disclosure and announcement procedures in accordance with current laws and regulations of the country where the Organisation has its registered office.

**ARTICLE 16 - FUNDING**

The Organization's funding shall proceed from the following sources:

- Members' dues as established by the Steering Committee.
- Income from its property.
- Such financial aid as may be placed at the Organization's disposal by individuals or corporate bodies.
- Subsidies from States, from local authorities, from public bodies, or from foundations, institutions or Organizations, whether national, international; governmental or intergovernmental, also in return of projects and activities whose revenues are aimed at pursuing the objectives of the Association.
- Legacies and gifts made by individuals, corporate bodies or any entity with an interest in its activity.

**Cairo, January 13, 1996**

Le Président de l'Assemblée

Le Co-Président de l'Assemblée

X mandant

Pour les Membres Fondateurs

BINIA J IBA  
A. HARGHEM ERTT  
VLADIMIR EPICER HET  
JOHN INGUANEZ P.B.S

1. July 1996

Pour ratification

URT I  
CICP-IFTC (Italy)  
PBC

Le Président Elu de la Co.Pe.A.M.

Le Secrétaire General Elu de la Co.Pe.A.M.