



Media Board Working group 4 – 2026 Terms of Reference (ToR)

Name of the Working group	Effective Cooperation
WG Chair, NRA	Aoife MacEivilly, CnaM
Summary of background	<p>2026 marks the second full operational year of the (Media Board) under the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA). Following its establishment in 2025, the Media Board implemented governance rules, procedures, and cooperation mechanisms to ensure coherent supervision of media services across the internal market. Working Group 4 (WG4) will focus on consolidating these mechanisms and strengthening cooperation and governance.</p> <p>Throughout 2025, several foundational instruments were developed under the Work Programme, most notably the operationalisation of cooperation mechanisms under Articles 14, 15 and 17 EMFA, the development of the list of criteria under Article 17 EMFA, the adoption of internal Rules of Procedure, and the establishment of the first arrangements for structured engagement with stakeholders, platforms, and other European institutions.</p> <p>As the Media Board moves from establishment to consolidation, WG4 will play a central role in ensuring that these mechanisms function effectively in practice, with the aim of ensuring smooth cooperation, robust governance, and strategic partnerships to safeguard media freedom and pluralism.</p> <p>These activities continue and expand the work initiated in 2025 under various workstreams relating to cross-border cooperation, Structured Cooperation, and external collaboration with relevant bodies and organisations.</p>
Working group scope and purpose	<p>WG4's main purpose in 2026 is to ensure the Media Board moves from a period of establishment to full operational effectiveness by strengthening cooperation and governance. It will focus on three areas: making sure cross-border cooperation mechanisms under EMFA work smoothly and improving them where needed; reviewing the Rules of Procedure after one year and proposing eventual updates for 2027, if necessary; and coordinating engagement with non-EU and non-regulatory stakeholders</p> <p>For this purpose, it is proposed for the WG to engage in the following workstreams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> WS 1: Structured Cooperation (lead: CMS) <p>The main objective of this workstream is to make sure the cooperation and convergence mechanisms under Articles 14 and 15 EMFA work well in practice, including the accelerated cooperation procedures. To do this, the implementation of the cooperation mechanisms would be monitored and assessed in cooperation with national single points of contact (SPOC) and further training and workshops proposed to ensure consistency and common approaches. Key findings from the operation of the cooperation mechanisms will be summarised in an end of year report.</p> <p>The workstream will also support the smooth functioning of the Ad Hoc Expert Groups for opinions as envisaged by Article 19 and 19b of the Media Board Rules of Procedure. The work would include updating the pool of experts to work on requests pursuant to these Articles, should an opinion be required. In addition, the workstream will identify and review what resources are needed in order to make structured cooperation effective, such as shared IT systems, secure tools for exchanging documents, and archiving solutions. Such a</p>



technological solution could replace the current minimum viable product, thereby making structured cooperation more automated and efficient. Finally, it will help develop extra practical arrangements for cooperation or tools to improve technical workflows where needed in cooperation with the Commission services. As part of WS1 and within the framework of structured cooperation, deep dives into relevant thematic areas, to be identified by WG members throughout the year, could be organised.

2. WS2: Coordination of national measures against third country services (lead: KRRIT)

The main objective of this work stream is to support the operationalisation of Article 17 of the EMFA. In the first instance, that would involve the development of internal guidance to be used by the Media Board to effectively “coordinate relevant measures by the national regulatory authorities or bodies concerned” established in Article 17(1) including the preparation of opinions pursuant to Article 17; cooperation with the Commission services will be envisaged in the adoption of the guidance. This internal guidance would be notably based on a collection and analysis of members’ views on possible measures, measures taken, and procedural arrangements.

WG4 would also be responsible for coordinating the preparation of opinions on Article 17 EMFA, including by establishing a pool of NRA experts to join Ad Hoc Expert Groups (AHEG) as needed to draft those opinions. In addition, a group of NRA points of contact could also be set up, under the auspices of WG4, to facilitate informal, voluntary, rapid and seamless consultation in crisis situations in relation to issues covered by Article 17 of the EMFA. Those involved in this group could engage in sharing information, for example regarding early detection of relevant third country services and sharing best practice, as well as solution-seeking peer exchange to support regulatory response aimed at protecting the internal market from rogue media service providers, while ensuring compliance with fundamental rights, in particular the freedom of expression. WS2 will prepare a framework of organising these consultations.

Finally, this workstream would also be able to follow any relevant initiatives, such as the European Democracy Shield, that relate to topics like FIMI (i.e. relevant to the application of Article 17), where relevant in consultation with work on disinformation that is coordinated by WG3. And, in collaboration with WG2, WG4 would provide relevant expertise to the monitoring exercise, which will be subject to consultation with the Board pursuant to Article 26 of the EMFA with regard to detecting risks of foreign information manipulation and interference.

3. WS 3: Evaluation of Rules of Procedure (lead: Arcom)

The main objective of this workstream would be to conduct a light-touch evaluation of the Rules of Procedure after one year of application, in consultation with members and identify areas where additional internal guidelines may be needed (e.g. communication protocols, document handling, timelines, representation of the Media Board in external bodies or expert groups, commissioning of studies and structured cooperation). Finally, recommendations for potential updates or amendments for 2027 would be prepared by this workstream.

4. WS 4: Stakeholder Cooperation (lead: TBD)



	<p>The objective of this workstream is to ensure that the Media Board has the opportunity to engage and cooperate with experts from other organisations, institutions, industry and civil society, both to raise the Media Board’s profile and to learn from external expertise.</p> <p>This workstream will be responsible for managing the operationalisation of the newly created list (or « pool ») of external stakeholders with their contacts and areas of expertise that could be used by the Media Board for the application of the consultation mechanism foreseen in Article 12. This would involve processing new expressions of interest, coordinating additional calls for participation to supplement the database, and advising other WGs on any consultations they are considering. WG4 will also summarise the activity under the consultation mechanism, which will be published as part of the Media Board Annual Report.</p> <p>This workstream will also develop a programme for strategic engagement with relevant external bodies in coordination with the Media Board Chair and look into the possibility to review the Ways of Working arrangement with EPRA.</p>



Working group 4 Deliverables

WORKSTREAM 1 – Structured Cooperation		
Deliverable 1	Deliverable type	Internal document
	Deliverable title	Practical arrangements for structured cooperation under Articles 14 & 15 EMFA
	Due date	Q2 2026
	Approval procedure	Adoption at Plenary
	Publication	No, Internal document only
Deliverable 2	Deliverable type	Training toolkit/workshop
	Deliverable title	Training toolkit & workshop on structured cooperation
	Due date	Q4 2026
	Approval procedure	Working Group level
	Publication	No
Deliverable 3	Deliverable type	Report
	Deliverable title	Report on the performance and application of the structured cooperation mechanisms in 2026.
	Due date	Q1 2027
	Approval procedure	A Written Procedure
	Publication	Yes
Opinions under articles 14 & 15 of EMFA	Reactive mode	
	Publication	



WORKSTREAM 2 – Coordination of national measures against third country services

Deliverable 1	Deliverable type	Internal document
	Deliverable title	Internal guidance on the coordination of relevant measures by NRAs or bodies concerned under Article 17.1 EMFA, and production of opinions
	Due date	Q 4 2026
	Approval procedure	Adoption at the Plenary
	Publication	No
Deliverable 2	Deliverable type	Framework for consultation of contact points
	Deliverable title	EMFA Framework of Rapid Consultation Mechanism in crisis situations on issues covered by Article 17
	Due date	Q2 2026
	Approval procedure	Report to the Plenary
	Publication	No
Opinions under articles 17 of EMFA	Reactive mode	
	Publication	

WORKSTREAM 3 – Rules of Procedure Evaluation

Deliverable 1	Deliverable type	Internal Document
	Deliverable title	Light-touch evaluation of the Rules of Procedure
	Due date	Q4 2026
	Approval procedure	Report to Plenary
	Publication	No



WORKSTREAM 4 – Stakeholder Cooperation

Deliverable 1	Deliverable type	Plan
	Deliverable title	Programme for strategic engagement with relevant external bodies
	Due date	Q1/2 2026
	Approval procedure	Working Group level, in coordination with the Chair
	Publication	No
Deliverable 2	Deliverable type	Contribution to annual report
	Deliverable title	Summary of the consultations carried out in accordance with Article 12 EMFA
	Due date	Q4 2026
	Approval procedure	Written procedure Plenary
	Publication	Yes, Q1 2027

Maintenance of A12 Pool of Experts	Reactive Mode	
	Publication	