REPORT

ÉTATS GÉNÉRAUX
DE L'INFORMATION

A NINE-MONTH STUDY BY A FRENCH INDEPENDANT
ORGANIZATION ON THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

PROTECTING AND DEVELOPING
THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION:
AN URGENT DEMOCRATIC IMPERATIVE

LES **ÉTATS GÉNÉRAUX**
DE **L'INFORMATION**

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Introduction

The urgent need to safeguard and develop the right to information

The États généraux de l'information, an independent, collective and collaborative consultation process on the right to information, began in October 2023 and lasted nine months. During this time, citizens, journalists, publishers, researchers, senior officials, the voluntary sector and young people discussed the future of information. Five working groups comprising some 50 people worked to produce a set of proposals on specific themes. The effort was exceptional, with 22 citizen assemblies across France, 174 hearings, and 76 written contributions sent to members of the team.

Taken together, this work naturally covers a great variety of standpoints, beliefs and thoughts, as shown by this volume. Divergences and nuances should however not overshadow what has emerged: there is widespread and profound concern.

This is an urgent matter as information, an independent, verified narrative of reality guaranteed by its author, is under threat and being marginalized. Journalists, for whom this is their profession, and news media, for which it is their business, are losing money. The civic space is being polarized by a new force: that of algorithms with their accelerating and amplifying effects, particularly on social media. Lastly, many forces are seeking to discredit information through "weaponization" of networks, interfaces and algorithms in disinformation and misinformation campaigns.

The deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) and, more specifically, generative artificial intelligence, will further boost the importance of algorithms. That opens up new prospects, some that are promising, and others that are more worrying. That is just one of the risks affecting the production and reception of information: the proliferation of messages adds to the general chaos. Reality is mixed with falsehood. Everyone now has access to tools, even of the lowest quality, that can be used for disinformation. Meanwhile, the privatization and capture of tools by a very small number of very large companies with their own private models limits pluralism and people's freedom to choose their own sources.

In the view of some analysts, there is a risk of information chaos: information deserts are forming, information fatigue is taking root and distrust of the media is becoming widespread. There is sometimes a fear of collapse or even extinction. We are not there yet, thankfully.

But scattergun sectoral measures are no longer enough. It is time to safeguard the right to information for those who produce it, and to develop the right to information for those it is aimed at. For a simple reason: the right to information is what enables an individual to become a citizen. And there can be no democracy without a public space that guarantees informed debate between citizens, founded on a shared reality. The right to information is a prerequisite for the existence of such a public space. And that public space is where democracy is kept alive.

Information is therefore not a good like any other, even if it is often produced by commercial businesses. From an economic point of view, information is a public good: everyone can enjoy it without depriving others. Its effects are both individual and collective. But philosophically, information is our common good, as what gives society its unity.

A package of measures now needs to be considered, which as a whole form a comprehensive and ambitious policy to safeguard the public space in the age of social media and AI; a policy that can be deployed nationally, but also at European level, with the aim of building a still-nascent public space.

These measures need to stress the rights, roles and powers of citizens, while restoring a condition for the profession of providing information that is professionally guaranteed and economically viable in a technological context that must cease being unfavourable to it. The aim is to serve freedom of expression and pluralism, which are essential pillars of the democratic information space, while guaranteeing three complementary freedoms: the freedom for citizens to freely access information, protected from manipulations and algorithmic bias; freedom for journalists to practise, protected from pressure; and economic freedom, for media publishers to operate, protected from economic dependency.

Each of the reports of the five working groups puts forward a great many proposals that could contribute to shaping a comprehensive policy to safeguard the information space and the public space.

Taking up some of their conclusions, and inspired by the participants' many contributions, the Steering Committee submits:

- **Nine proposals to preserve the French public space;**
- **Six proposals to contribute to building the European public space;**
- **And two recommendations for media professionals. This selection is of course not exhaustive, but we feel it could form a framework for a comprehensive policy.**

The Steering Committee
of the États généraux de l'information

Recap of the methodology used by the Steering Committee of the États généraux de l'information

In July 2023, fulfilling a commitment made during the presidential campaign in 2022, the French President announced the launch of the États généraux de l'information. The goal was to "draw up an analysis of all current issues around information, anticipate evolutions in the future, and propose tangible steps that could be deployed at national, European and international levels". The remit also set out certain themes to examine, such as "the considerable impact of technological innovations, the development of media and information literacy education, the working conditions of professional journalists, the business model and regulation of the media sector and the roles of the different actors, interferences and manipulations". Moreover, the remit stipulated that "the États généraux de l'information should involve all stakeholders and citizens [...] transparently and as part of an open procedure involving all sides". The running of the États généraux de l'information was entrusted to an independent Steering Committee made up of five qualified figures: Bruno Patino, Chairperson of ARTE and Steering Committee Chair; Christophe Deloire, Secretary General of Reporters Without Borders and General Delegate; Nathalie Collin, Deputy Managing Director of the La Poste group; Anne Perrot, member of the Inspecteur-Général des Finances civil servant corps; and Camille François, Professor at Columbia University. The Steering Committee also worked in liaison with Maria Ressa, a journalist and 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, in accordance with its remit. The rapporteur of the États généraux de l'information was Maxence Langlois-Berthelot, a member of the Inspecteur-Général des Finances civil servant corps.

Five working groups made up of 44 specialists from different backgrounds (journalists, lawyers, voluntary sector leaders, academics, independent experts, senior civil servants, etc.) were formed to support the Steering Committee's work: • Information Space and Technological Innovation, entrusted to Sébastien Soriano, Director-General of the National Geographical and Forest Information Institute (IGN); • Citizenship, Information and Democracy, entrusted to Pascal Ruffenach, CEO of the Bayard group; • Future of News Media and Journalism, entrusted to Christopher Baldelli, CEO of Public Sénat; • Sovereignty and Fighting Foreign Interference, entrusted to Arancha González Laya, Dean of the Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs; • Government and Regulation, entrusted to Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin, President of the French National Gambling Authority. The groups began their work on 19 October 2023, with meetings held until May 2024. The working groups and the Steering Committee conducted their work on the basis of contributions from professionals, the public and academia, as well as a series of hearings.

The report resulting from these nine months of work was delivered to the President of the Republic and published on 12 September 2024. It is available in full online on the États généraux de l'information website and includes:

- A summary report by the Steering Committee setting out an action plan made up of 15 proposals and avenues for implementation, and two recommendations for media professionals;
- Reports from the five working groups and summaries of their proposals;
- A report from the Sciences Po-Columbia University Innovation Lab;
- A report from the 100 citizens chosen by lottery to take part in the deliberations of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council;
- A report from the policy planning committee on the information world in 2050;
- A list of all contributions and proposals received and of the hearings held in the last nine months.

Summary of proposals

15 proposals from the Steering Committee and two recommendations for media professionals

Safeguarding the French public space

1. Making critical thinking and media education in schools a priority

We all form our opinions based on the information at our disposal, but everybody is vulnerable to disinformation and misinformation, especially in a chaotic information space. Knowing how to use and exercise critical thinking is essential. We therefore propose to strengthen teaching of critical thinking and fact processing in school curriculums that are currently being overhauled. We also propose generalizing media and information literacy education in the time scheduled for civic education, on the basis of compulsory projects for children aged 12-15 years. A unit to guide this teaching, with the necessary resources, needs to be created within the Directorate-General for School Education (DGESCO), and the results of this reform should be evaluated in 2027 at the latest. We want all future citizens to have access to a variety of high-quality professional media outlets in their virtual learning environments. This would include political and general publications and press aimed at young people.

2. Neutralizing disinformation by large-scale "*prebunking*" to inoculate the public

Exposure to disinformation, often orchestrated by foreign powers, is happening on a massive scale. It cannot be controlled in advance. To address it, we propose to strengthen the natural defences of all citizens by organizing large-scale awareness campaigns in schools, universities, businesses and, more generally, any venue that enables us to reach certain particularly exposed audiences. Measures can also be put in place for decision-makers, journalists and officials to raise their awareness of the risks of manipulation and foreign interference. Viginum should be used to illustrate training modules using tangible examples, and research should be drawn on to identify appropriate methods. An interministerial lead should be designated.

3. Expanding the scope of benefit corporations to include media companies

Information is both a public good and a common good, but there is so far no specific status for media companies that takes this dual nature into account. The PACTE – Action Plan for Business Growth and Transformation – Act enables companies to define themselves as benefit corporations. We propose to expand this by creating the status of media benefit corporation. Each publisher would have the freedom to adapt the model they adopt; however, it would have to include aspects on the participation of readers or subscribers, as well as journalists, in the company's governance. The company would have to employ a minimum number of journalists with a press card or with a qualification from a recognized training establishment. The editorial team would have to be involved in changes of leadership decided by shareholders. These companies would have to contribute to media education and promote an "ethics of debate", and make commitments to diversity in the themes addressed and viewpoints represented. In return, government subsidies for the media concerned could be boosted significantly. Implementing this measure could be an opportunity to overhaul the system for direct subsidies promoting pluralism.

4. Improving the governance of news media

When mutual confidence between citizens, journalists and the media erodes, greater transparency is required. This is a responsibility for both shareholders and the public authorities. The Bloche Act on strengthening the freedom, independence and pluralism of the media offers some avenues. The aim is to build on it and ensure it is fully applied, extended and clarified where necessary. That applies to five areas in particular:

- In news media, the law stipulates that ethical charters should be drafted jointly by management and the editorial team, but this is not always the case. Not only does the law need to be respected, but these charters also need to be generalized and made easily available to the public.

- Ethics committees need to be expanded to all information media and not only audiovisual media as is the case today, and their terms of designation need to be amended to establish equal nominations by management and the editorial team, apart from "independent" members who would be nominated jointly by both. Failure to comply with either of these obligations (adoption of an ethics code and the terms of designation described) should lead to effective financial sanctions high enough to be dissuasive for the media outlet concerned.

- An independent director on the board of directors should be appointed in groups that own multiple media outlets, in order to ensure independence and prevent conflicts of interest.

- The chair of the outlet's "committee of journalists" should have protected status throughout their term.

- Shareholders would be required to inform the editorial team of their intention to designate new editorial directors with sufficient notice for the representative organizations to put across their point of view. This information should be supported by reasoning and evidence. At the same time, the ethics committee, also informed of this intention, should be able to produce and publish an opinion swiftly. The Steering Committee preferred these measures, which are strong in themselves, to other proposals it received which were more constraining for shareholders. Those other proposals may appear in the reports of certain working groups. The Steering Committee did not select them, considering that they could not apply to all situations and that there would therefore be downsides to their generalization.

5. Strengthening the protection of sources and legislating against intimidation lawsuits

Without journalistic independence, the right to information is not guaranteed and the public space is damaged. This makes the protection of sources essential. While the principle is enshrined in law, legal exceptions should also be more clearly defined and it should be stipulated that no exception to protection of sources is possible without formal judicial authorization. To address these limitations and enable journalists to exercise their rights without legal action, we propose to clarify – i.e. reduce – the scope of the "overwhelming public interest imperative" mentioned in the 2010 Act on freedom of the press, which can be used to lift protection of sources, and to require prior authorization by a freedoms and detention judge prior to any investigation. This would align French law with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. Concerning intimidation lawsuits, we propose the introduction of a precise legal definition of these suits, which should also apply to domestic cases, as well as provisions enabling unfounded proceedings to be thrown out swiftly and dissuasive sanctions in the event of abuse, to cover the legal costs and moral prejudice suffered by the journalist or editorial team, as is already the case in certain European Union countries.

6. Introducing voluntary labelling for news influencers

Everyone who produces a message does not necessarily share news. We must therefore distinguish between those who agree to comply with heightened requirements for information processing – i.e. quality sources, honesty in the treatment and presentation of information, and no anonymity – and those who do not. We propose to introduce suitable labelling for these producers of information who are active on networks and who would be interested in adopting it. Their commitment to comply with these heightened requirements would enable them to benefit from the advantages offered by this recognition. As with all labelling, it should be subject to regular approval by a third party.

7. Creating a new duty: democratic responsibility

Preserving the public space is not solely the responsibility of news media outlets. Economic actors and the State also have a role to play, as advertisers for example. We therefore propose to create a new "democratic responsibility", which would be added to economic actors' corporate social responsibility (CSR) and improve their contribution to safeguarding the democratic public space. It would encourage economic actors who act as advertisers (beyond a certain threshold) to invest in news media. It involves making transparent how they allocate their advertising investment in news media in comparison to their investments in other areas, including digital platforms. This transparency would be compulsory for the State.

8. Redistributing some of the wealth drained by the providers of digital services to improve information

But incentive measures alone are not enough to correct the imbalances of current economic models. Advertising revenue is increasingly being drained by very large digital platforms, to the detriment of news media. We therefore propose to redistribute some of this wealth by implementing a compulsory contribution from digital platforms' advertising revenue. A bill currently being studied in California – itself based on a Canadian law – merits close examination. But before this new contribution is implemented, we recommend that the State first devotes some of its budgetary resources to funding initiatives to support the positive externalities that the production of information creates for society. This funding will focus on two priorities: combating disinformation and protecting journalists' jobs in editorial teams (through State funding to reduce the social security contributions paid by news media organizations when employing journalists on a permanent basis).

9. Ensuring media pluralism in the context of concentrations

Access to diverse reliable sources is a pillar of the right to information. However, excessive concentration inhibits the expression of this diversity. This principle and this observation laid the foundations for the French Act of 1986. But the public space has since changed and, along with it, the nature of the risks to pluralism. These new risks call for new regulation that appropriately takes into account the media's real power of influence. In order to impose this new regulation, we propose the introduction of a single cross-media threshold. This threshold could be set in two ways: by measuring a news media organization's power of influence by calculating its capacity to reach readers, listeners and viewers, or by allocating each organization a number of points based on the news content it delivers. This change would be a significant shift from the current unsatisfactory situation, which cannot continue. After the Audiovisual and Digital Communications Regulatory Authority (ARCOM) publishes its guidelines setting out the methodology adopted, pluralism checks should then move away from the threshold approach and towards a comprehensive case-by-case pluralism assessment based on analysing multiple factors, both quantitative (audience, economic viability, attention shares, etc.) and qualitative (diversity of content, honesty, etc.).

Building the European public space

10. Ensuring European recognition of the right to information

Information knows no borders. The right to information must therefore be protected across new frontiers, particularly in Europe. Currently, this is only partially the case. We therefore propose that the right to reliable information be added to Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union in order to impose the duty to take action by creating specific policies.

11. Establishing effective pluralism in algorithms

Algorithms have seized power, but we must take it back. They have replaced news vendors and secured a foothold in editorial teams. Working with them and for them, we must repeat what was brought about in 1881, when freedom of the press was guaranteed in France, and in 1947, when all newspapers were guaranteed for distribution at all news kiosks. We therefore propose supporting the right to pluralism in algorithms so that they can be seen as the sum of different features that are more or less likely to be chosen among various suppliers. To offer these features, proposals from other actors would be offered, enabling consumers to make an informed choice from the different products available. On an increasingly ambitious scale, several stages could be considered: requiring the relevant platforms to offer users more choice in their recommendations, following on from the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA); encouraging and regulating the use of plug-ins for browsers and applications, enabling users to configure these services individually; and guaranteeing the ability to install intermediary software layers between platforms and users.

12. Making the online advertising intermediation market more competitive to ensure value is shared in a balanced way

The targeted advertising market is currently dominated by very large platforms, which is one of the reasons why news media is losing advertising revenue. Making competition fairer would benefit the right to information. We therefore propose opening adtech services up to competition by adding them to the list of services for which large platforms are prohibited from self-preferencing, as well as making interoperability compulsory in order to encourage the development of competing services.

13. Making it compulsory for very large platforms to show news information

If very large platforms are the news vendors of the 21st century, we must follow the example of the Bichet Act of 1947 and ensure that they cannot conceal or delist news websites. We therefore propose compelling them to show news content in a non discriminatory manner in comparison to other content. This is essential to enabling the users of these platforms to access high-quality information, but without making the platforms responsible for the content itself.

14. Making the responsibilities of large platforms effective in the fight against disinformation and online harassment by preparing a "second act" of the DSA

Technology creates a cat-and-mouse-game, where regulations can only correct any harmful effects of innovations after the fact. That is how the DSA, which entered into force on 17 February 2024 and is now the most advanced legal framework at the European level for combating fake or misleading messages and online harassment, was implemented after a decade of scandals and the distortion of public debate. Although the priority of the entities in charge of applying this regulation should be ensuring its full operational capacity, its second act must also be prepared now, and will inevitably involve responding to technological developments – starting with generative AI.

The application of current EU legislation has demonstrated that the conditions for its adaptation need to be defined extremely precisely in order to be effective. The European Commission needs to draw up operational guidelines and the definitions called for by the text in order to enable better application of said legislation.

An assessment of its implementation to determine if it is enough to compel very large platforms and digital services to shoulder their responsibilities in the fight against disinformation should be shared with the Commission with a view to prepare an update of the text after 2026. These measures will also enable the strengthening of national resources to implement the DSA and DMA. Moreover, the European Commission announced in February 2024 that it was considering a text that would harmonize the status of influencers in Europe, which could be a helpful measure.

We are also calling to support associations representing the media and journalists in the fight against the online harassment of news media journalists, for example by establishing themselves as trusted flaggers.

It is also crucial that the Commission ensures strict compliance and effectiveness when platforms provide their data to researchers.

15. Consolidating a policy to combat disinformation at the European level

Disinformation also knows no borders, perhaps even more so than information. Action must be taken collectively at the EU level in order to combat it. That is why we are proposing the creation of a coordination and pooling mechanism to combat disinformation through a new organization enabling member States to share their experts' work on detecting disinformation and to strengthen their power to identify malicious actors on a large scale. We are also advocating for all relevant duties to be brought together under the functional authority of a single commissioner for defence and the fight against disinformation. Moreover, a European network of centres of excellence in research on combatting foreign interference could be created. The network would bring together researchers, government actors and civil society.

Two Steering Committee recommendations for media professionals

Protecting and developing the right to information is therefore essential to preserving the French public space and building a European public space. Our proposals call on everyone to get involved, from citizens to public authorities, regulators and the economic world. It will also require input from media professionals, journalists and news media publishers. We particularly need these professionals and have therefore created two recommendations for them:

Recommendation 1: the profession should undertake a proactive and wide-ranging labelling process.

Labels are a mark of distinction for citizens and therefore a way of reinforcing trust. They are crucial to ensuring the effectiveness of public policies and rebalancing the relationship with platforms. The aim is not to advocate for compulsory labelling or impose a single label, but rather to take into account existing categories and labels (such as the general and political information category, the Journalism Trust Initiative and ARCOM licenses).

Recommendation 2: the profession should start building a tool for the collective management of news media.

We need a trusted third party that can protect data from digital operators, potentially ensure the respect of neighbouring rights agreements and, most importantly, prepare the economic model brought about by artificial intelligence – i.e., the shift from a link-based economy, one of neighbouring rights, to a content-based economy, which may require a system of collective licenses or even legal licenses. Neither of these actions can be decided coercively by public authorities. Rather, they should come about following active and intentional engagement with media professionals to serve information and, ultimately, citizens.

Summary of Working Group proposals

Working Group: Information Space and Technological Innovation

- Promote pluralism in algorithms by guaranteeing the right to configuration founded over time on the principle of unbundling;

- Add compulsory inclusion of news information to the obligations of very large digital platforms;

- Encourage content publishers to gather to protect and make money from their rights when faced with digital platforms and AI companies;

- Create a specific status for influencers with large audiences to better oversee super-spreaders of fake news; Support knowledge of the information space by guaranteeing access to helpful data, as well as the auditability of algorithmic systems;

- Impose transparency requirements on advertisers and purchase managers on their behalf;

- Task an independent regulator with the promotion of these measures over the long term.

Working Group: Citizenship, Information and Democracy

- Create a media benefit corporation status under France's PACTE Act of 22 May 2018 in order to recognize information as a common good;
- Strengthen measures to protect editorial teams from potential editorial interventionism by shareholders;
- Redesign the criteria for the attribution of assistance to the press in order to consolidate a pluralistic news landscape;
- Roll out an external certification procedure for the production of information, like the promotion of the Journalism Trust Initiative by the Media Freedom Act;
- Promote and support better representation of citizens in media governance organizations, including regulatory authorities;
- Use any suitable process or incentive to encourage crossovers between journalism training and economic and/or scientific training; Reform the protection of sources;
- Reform the protection of trade secrets by repealing the Act of 30 July 2018, which has generated serious breaches of press freedom;
- Draw up a charter of best practices regarding appearances of "expert" participants, particularly on rolling news channels;
- Roll out a national plan to improve journalists' occupational well-being;
- Deploy an ambitious and unified public policy for the culture of information at all ages by building a common framework;
- Integrate a culture of information in school curriculums, with one hour focusing on it per week from the age of 9/10;
- Set up a 1% levy for the culture of information at all ages on Big Tech companies that dodge their national tax obligations;
- Involve citizens in decision-making at media coordination, assistance and regulation bodies (EESC);
- Encourage the financing of user associations within national regulatory bodies, such as ARCOM;
- Roll out the "Pass-Info" to combat the information poverty among the general public;
- Support research to effectively measure the impact of training in critical thinking for people of all ages;
- Reinforce efforts to prevent disinformation ahead of elections;
- Introduce a true public policy with the aim of limiting the impact of health information on people of all ages, but focusing in particular on children and young people;
- Create a media coalition to launch and adapt the "My Country Talks" initiative in France.

Working Group: Future of News Media and Journalism

- Implement an annual study on the cost of information run by public authorities and branch organizations;

- Set up a tripartite charter between the media, advertisers and agencies to remove the obstacles to advertising investment in news media;

- Formalize advertisers' commitment to support news media through their advertising expenses. To do so, create an obligation to declare the sum of advertising expenses allocated to news media in CSR reports;

- Combat fake news by shining a spotlight on high-quality information, drawing on the initiative planned under the Audiovisual Media Services Directive;

- Make it compulsory for platforms to use independent fact-checking tools;

- Ensure full application of publishers' obligations to pay neighbouring rights by creating the conditions for genuinely balanced negotiations between publishers and digital platforms;

- Introduce a tax on Big Tech companies and use the yield to strengthen the economic model of media outlets that contribute significantly to producing reliable and high-quality information;

- Guarantee sufficient, sustained and predictable funding for public broadcast media by reforming France's Organic Act on Finance Laws;

- Prioritize news-related objectives in Objectives and Resources Contracts for public sector broadcasters;

- Resume the provisions of Article 12 of the bill on reforming the French public audiovisual sector, voted at the Senate in 2023;

- Create new assistance to support digital subscription services;

- Implement assistance for press in the general and political information category in rural areas, indexed on the number of journalists;

- Make news media a bigger part of the Culture Pass;

- Modify the Act of 1986 to strengthen the "exemplary" nature of data processing by public service broadcasters when they produce and broadcast information;

- Ensure greater and clearer transparency regarding news media ownership and guarantees of independence by making it compulsory for websites to include this information on their homepages;

- Compel media buyers to maintain the ethical charter of the organization in question for the ongoing period; Expand to all news media outlets the obligation to create ethics committees and change their composition pursuant to the Bloche Act;

- Create legal protection for presidents of committees of journalists or their designated representatives;
- Encourage transparent use of AI by editorial teams;
- Extend the duration of validity of the press card to take any appeals into account;
- Ask France Travail to appoint advisers for freelance journalists;
- Enable French resident journalists working for French media outlets abroad to stay within the French social security system directly;
- Establish reinforced sanctions for offences committed against journalists due to their work;
- Enhance the protection of the right to information in relation to trade secrets, and enhance the protection of confidential relations between journalists and in-house sources;
- Make the so-called "conscience clause" more effective by adjusting the burden of proof.

Working Group: Sovereignty and Fighting Foreign Interference

- Carry out wide-scale prebunking, giving Viginum a central role in a palette of actions to raise awareness;
- Specify the scope of EU legislation (draw up guidelines and definitions specifying the scope of EU legislation; formulate measures for sanctions related to the AI Act, the DSA and the DMA);
- Increase the responsibility of those contributing to the spread of fake news;
- Encourage companies to invest in advertising responsibly;
- Require transparency around capital from content publishers;
- Compel each media outlet to create and follow an ethical charter and encourage a proactive labelling process in order to limit potential foreign interference;
- Encourage the structuring of the OSINT community;
- Create a national strategy to fight the manipulation of information;
- Refine/complete transparency rules in France and across the EU regarding interest representatives acting on behalf of foreign mandators;
- Set up a working group to create minimum common standards applicable to all platforms within the OECD;
- Consolidate the EU's modes of action and create a Viginum for Europe.

Working Group: Government and Regulation

- Simplify the system for sectoral monitoring of concentrations by setting a single maximum threshold for the ownership of multiple media outlets, at a level determined by the legislator;

- For the next revision of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), make it compulsory for platforms to provide digital audience data for the media content that they broadcast, using a method specified by the EMFA;

- Include criteria to measure media audience data for certain population groups in the updated concentration monitoring system;

- In the short term, consider the possibility of enshrining a more specific definition of news channels and programmes in law in order to avoid the multiplication of opinion channels and programmes labelled as "news";

- In the long term, remove the obligation for "internal pluralism" required under the French Act of 1986, as interpreted by the recent decision of the Conseil d'État;

- Strengthen the requirement for truthful information and update ARCOM's sanction practices to enhance how effectively it exercises its prerogatives;

- Support certification initiatives for journalistic production and news drafting methods to improve the quality of news, particularly online;

- Implement specific media governance to guarantee journalists' independence (e.g. journalists' right to veto the choice of editorial director);

- Update journalists' right to object, assignment clause and conscience clause;

- Structure a self-regulation body that brings together the sector's ethics stakeholders, pools best practices and ensures transparency; Guarantee the effectiveness of the Bloche Act by reviewing how Ethics Committees function;

- Create a set of minimum obligations applicable to all forms of news-focused media (media influencers, blogs, etc.);

- Increase the responsibility of platforms hosting news content broadcast by producers of information whose publications go extremely viral;

- At the European level, advocate for making an exception to applying to platforms the country-of-origin principle for general regulatory obligations laid down by Member States (see the CJEU judgment of 9 November 2023);

- Maintain political support for the Information and Democracy Partnership;

- Make interoperability compulsory for adtech services;

- Use CSR incentives to redirect the advertising revenue created to the media sector;

- Support press publishers in neighbouring rights negotiations.