

# FOREWORD BY ROCH-OLIVIER MAISTRE CHAIR OF ARCOM



"Arcom embodies a new type of regulation, capable of better responding to the major challenges of our time"

Within an audiovisual and digital landscape in full mutation, marked by rapidly changing uses and content and the establishment of major international players, the creation of Arcom on 1 January 2022, the Regulatory Authority for Audiovisual and Digital Communication, opened up a new chapter in the now long history of audiovisual regulation.

Created by the merger of the French audiovisual council (CSA) and the French high authority for the dissemination of works and the protection of rights on the Internet (Hadopi), this new independent public authority embodies a new type of regulation, able to better address the major issues of our time. As the guarantor of freedom of communication, it also intends to be attentive to the sector and its audiences and stakeholders.

In light of emerging issues affecting the digital sphere, Arcom's missions include combating the manipulation of information and online hate and protecting audiences and young people in particular. Arcom also has extensive expertise for supporting French and European creation, from the setting of obligations for the financing of works – now extended to foreign subscription-based video services – to the protection of the associated rights. Its antipiracy prerogatives have been strengthened, to promote responsible online practices and combat the considerable loss of revenue – more than €1 billion per year – resulting from illegal behaviour. Thanks to its action, sports piracy dropped by 50% in the first half of 2022 alone.

Defending freedom of communication and pluralism also remains at the heart of our missions, today more than ever before. The first year of Arcom's mandate was also marked by fundamental electoral events for our country.

In order to fulfil its various new missions in a field that is at the heart of public freedoms, Arcom's board is composed of nine members appointed by the executive, legislative and judicial powers, with one third of mandates being renewed every two years. It is supported by ten directorates at headquarters and sixteen regional offices in metropolitan and overseas France.

Through their skills and commitment, a total of 370 employees back this new regulator, in conjunction with its multiple partners and stakeholders, always with a will to serve the public interest.

In order to define and share its priorities for 2025, but also to strengthen the evaluation of its action, Arcom has drawn up a strategic plan which constitutes our roadmap for the coming years.

Roch-Olivier Maistre, Chair of Arcom

# **ABOUT US**

Arcom, an independent public authority (API), is composed of a nine-member board, several directorates under the responsibility of the Director General and his deputies, and 16 territorial delegations, located in metropolitan and overseas France. This organisation, in line with all of the regulator's missions, integrates specialists with a wide range of profiles who boast expertise relating to the major challenges facing the audiovisual and digital sector.

About us 2

# ARCOM'S BOARD

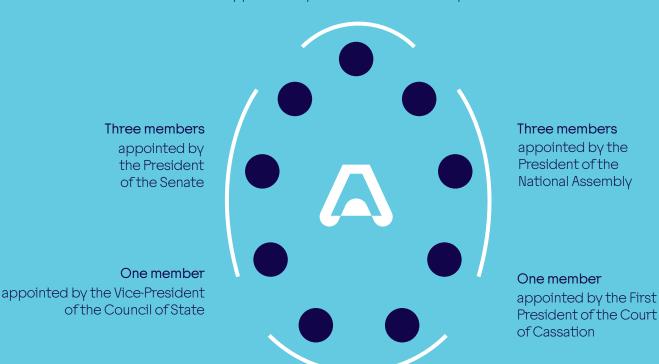
Arcom has a board made up of nine members. Every board member chairs one working group and is Vice-Chair of a second group. Each group's Chair and Vice-Chair lead the group and set its objectives, under the impetus of the board and in conjunction with Arcom's directorates. They are also key partners of stakeholders in the audiovisual and digital sectors with regard to issues falling within their group's sphere of competence.

Arcom's board meets at least every Wednesday in a plenary session. At this meeting, the Chair and the board members rule on all cases where Arcom is expected to issue a decision. Alerts received from viewers and listeners are also examined. Arcom's deliberations, opinions, recommendations and sanctions are adopted by all of the board members.

# THE MEMBERS OF THE ARCOM BOARD ON 1 JANUARY 2023

Roch-Olivier Maistre, chair; Anne Grand d'Esnon, board member; Hervé Godechot, board member; Juliette Théry, board member; Benoît Loutrel, board member; Laurence Pécaut-Rivolier, board member; Denis Rapone, board member; Bénédicte Lesage, board member and Antoine Boilley, board member.

# The Chair of Arcom appointed by the President of the Republic



The Chair and the eight other board members are appointed by five separate authorities (Presidency of the French Republic, National Assembly, Senate, Council of State, Court of Cassation), reinforcing the institution's independence.

# ARCOM'S DIRECTORATES

#### **DIRECTORATE FOR CREATION**

It ensures that audiovisual media services comply with their obligations regarding the financing and broadcasting of audiovisual and cinema works. It implements effective means for protecting digital content from illegal use and promotes its legal dissemination on the Internet.

# DIRECTORATE FOR AUDIENCES, PLURALISM AND SOCIAL COHESION

It ensures that service providers comply with rules and commitments relating to pluralism, rights and freedoms, the protection of children and audiences, and social cohesion.

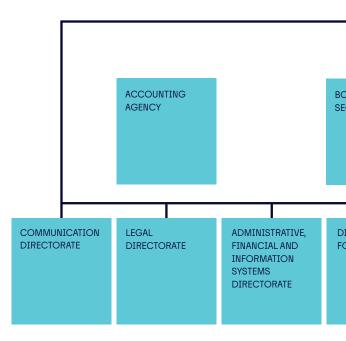
# DIRECTORATE FOR TELEVISION AND VIDEO ON DEMAND

In the Directorate for Television and Video on Demand implements rules and procedures for market access to audiovisual media services. It is responsible for planning the frequencies used for digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting. It oversees the DTT licensing procedure, from the conduct of calls for applications to the actual broadcasting of the channel.

The Directorate also carries out impact studies, monitors technological developments in the broadcasting sector and participates in the standardisation of broadcasting equipment and techniques. It is responsible for on-demand audiovisual media services (OD-AVMSs) and for television service and OD-AVMS distribution.

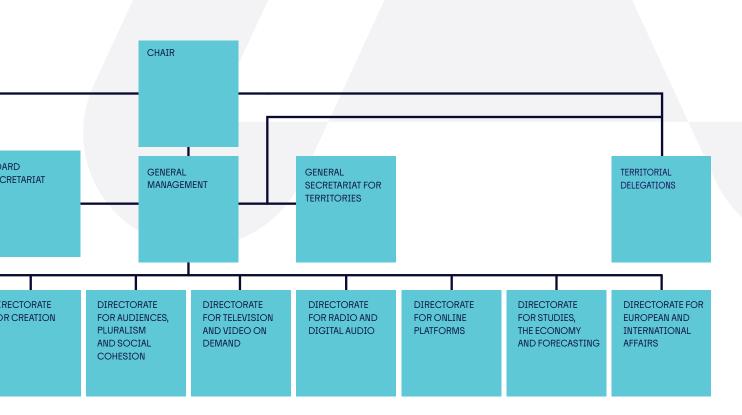
#### RADIO AND DIGITAL AUDIO DIRECTORATE

In the Radio and Digital Audio Directorate is responsible for regulating radio operators and monitoring the development of online audio content. It is responsible for planning the frequencies used for broadcasting radio, using digital (DAB+) and analogue (FM). The Directorate oversees the broadcasting authorisation procedure, from the conduct of calls for applications to the actual



broadcasting of the service. It also ensures that public and private radio services comply with their obligations to programme and broadcast songs and music.

About us 6



#### **DIRECTORATE FOR ONLINE PLATFORMS**

This Directorate is responsible for the systemic regulation and supervision of online platform operators, in particular operators of social networks and search engines, with regard to illegal and harmful content. Its tasks include developing methods for assessing the means implemented by online platform operators under their legal and regulatory requirements and under the charters and codes that Arcom monitors.

# ARCOM'S DIRECTORATES

# DIRECTORATE FOR STUDIES, ECONOMICS AND FORECASTING

In the Directorate for Studies, Economics and Forecasting carries out the studies and analyses necessary for the regulation of audiovisual and digital communication, particularly with regard to innovations and digital technologies. Its tasks include implementing economic impact studies, preparing opinions for the Competition Authority and Arcep, and monitoring markets for broadcasting rights for audiovisual, film and sports content.

# DIRECTORATE FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

This Directorate is responsible for proposing and implementing Arcom's European and international activities. In particular, it ensures Arcom's participation in the networks of regulators of which it is a member, defines Arcom's positions and influence strategy with the European Union, leads files relating to non-European channels and participates in regulatory tasks concerning France's external audiovisual media.

#### LEGAL DIRECTORATE

It ensures the legal security of all of Arcom's activities. In this capacity, it is responsible for carrying out the legal studies necessary to interpret the law and prepare the decisions and opinions issued by Arcom. The Directorate also provides legal expertise concerning the various analyses conducted in relation to the regulator's activities. Moreover, it is responsible for preparing Arcom's

defence in litigation cases and is in charge of the registry of dispute settlement proceedings brought before the Authority.

#### **COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE**

/ The Communication Directorate is responsible for promoting the regulator's image, values, missions, actions and messages to all audiences. It defines the overall communication strategy and oversees its implementation, in collaboration with the Chair and the Directorate General and in liaison with the other Directorates.

# ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIRECTORATE

The Administrative, Financial and Information Systems Directorate is responsible for budgetary and financial affairs, human resources, social dialogue, general resources and information systems.

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# 1 PANEL OF 9 MEMBERS

10 Directorates and 1 General Secretariat for Territories

370 employees

**1 DIRECTORATE GENERAL** 

1 Panel Secretariat

16 ARCOM'S TERRITORIAL DELEGATIONS

€49 million budget

# GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR TERRITORIES

Arcom is also responsible for local regulation: it works as closely as possible with local broadcasters and local audiences in metropolitan and overseas France, through 16 regional delegations coordinated by a General Secretariat for Territories. These offices work for local regulation in the areas of reception protection and spectrum management, media and information literacy, copyright protection and appropriate use of screens.

#### **PANEL SECRETARIAT**

The Board Secretariat ensures that the necessary resources are available for the proper functioning of the board. It is responsible for preparing agendas for plenary sessions, formatting and distributing session files, and drafting, distributing and archiving minutes.

#### **ACCOUNTING AGENCY**

After checking compliance with all the texts in force, the Accounting Agency records and executes expenditure, revenue and asset transactions in accordance with the rules of public management.

# PROVIDING ACCESS TO PLURALISTIC AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES THAT RESPECT RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

"Arcom ensures respect for the pluralistic expression of currents of thought and opinion in the programmes of radio and television services"

# ENSURING POLITICAL PLURALISM AND ETHICAL PROGRAMMING

Television channels and radio stations must comply with legal and conventional obligations: respect for human dignity, the fight against discrimination, the safeguarding of public order, the fairness and independence of information, the management of legal cases and respect for the right to privacy are the ethical principles of primary importance with which they are required to comply.

Arcom ensures that these principles are respected within the framework established by the Act of 30 September 1986 on freedom of communication. The regulator is also required to ensure that service providers respect the constitutional principle of political pluralism in their programmes.

The Act of 30 September 1986 stipulates that Arcom shall "ensure the diverse expression of currents of thought and opinion in the programmes broadcast by radio and television services, including broadcasts of political and general information in particular". This means that the Authority has to make sure that political figures benefit from equal speaking time in audiovisual media.





### PROMOTING FAIR REPRESENTATION OF FRENCH SOCIETY AND ACCESS TO AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES

Ensuring that diversity in French society is properly represented in audiovisual media (television channels and radio stations) and through all corresponding outlets is an essential mission for Arcom. The Authority places representation of this diversity at the heart of its work by encouraging each service provider to take tangible steps to promote its expression on screen and on the air. It ensures that television channels make their programmes accessible to everyone, including people with hearing or visual impairments.

# "Arcom strives to protect young audiences, from early childhood"

#### PROTECTING YOUTH

Arcom strives to protect young audiences, from early childhood. The Authority regularly takes direct action with television channels and radio stations. Age ratings for youth and "Children and screens" campaigns are just some of the tools aimed at providing clear information to parents and teachers so they may better manage the use of screens for young children.



# ENSURING OPTIMUM RECEPTION OF PROGRAMMES

One of Arcom's historical and main missions is to allocate and manage television and radio frequencies (DTT, FM, DAB+). The Authority is responsible for guaranteeing optimum reception of programmes for audiences and ensuring the quality of audiovisual services. To this end, it helps operators modernise their broadcasting.

Arcom supports the deployment of DAB+ (digital terrestrial radio) and the continuation of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) modernisation project.

"The Authority is responsible for guaranteeing optimum reception of programmes for audiences and ensuring the quality of audiovisual services"

# DAB+: DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL RADIO

Arcom supports the deployment of digital radio broadcasting. DAB+, the radio equivalent of DTT, is a major technological breakthrough. For listeners, it guarantees genuine sound comfort, a wider choice of programmes (to date, 565 radio stations are authorised on DAB+ in France) and better listening quality, even when on the move. The pooling of broadcasting costs (thanks to the grouping of 13 radio stations on the same frequency within a multiplex\*) is an opportunity for public and private service providers to extend their network when an FM band is saturated.

#### THE MODERNISATION OF DTT

Since it was introduced in France in 2005, digital terrestrial television (DTT) has benefited from several successive developments, the most important of which have been the increase in the number of national channels, now standing at 32 in mainland France, and the improvement in image quality. The DTT platform still has many advantages, including the fact that it is free of charge and provides wide coverage. Nevertheless, modernisation would enable it to better meet the new expectations of viewers in terms of sound and image quality and access to interactive features.

In agreement with stakeholders in the sector, Arcom will make a point of specifying the terms and timetable for the implementation of these changes as early as possible.

\*A system for simultaneously sending several signals through a single channel. A DAB+ multiplex is a single signal formed from the signals of 13 radio stations.



# DEFENDING CREATION AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS

#### PROMOTING LEGAL OFFERS

Offers providing legal access to online cultural content have developed significantly. Access to a subscription video-on-demand service (VOD) is the most common, with two-thirds of Internet users (68%) having access to it in 2023.

Incentives for the development of legal offers are reflected in particular in the referencing of these offers. Nearly 500 offers were identified in 2022 in the areas of video games, music, digital books<sup>1</sup>, video on demand, and photos and images. Arcom thus provides users with a service where they can search for a legal platform suited to their needs, according to a set of criteria (free or paid, pay-per-view or by subscription, streaming or downloading, for different playback terminals).

Arcom also allows Internet users to install a module on their Internet browser so they may be directly informed of the

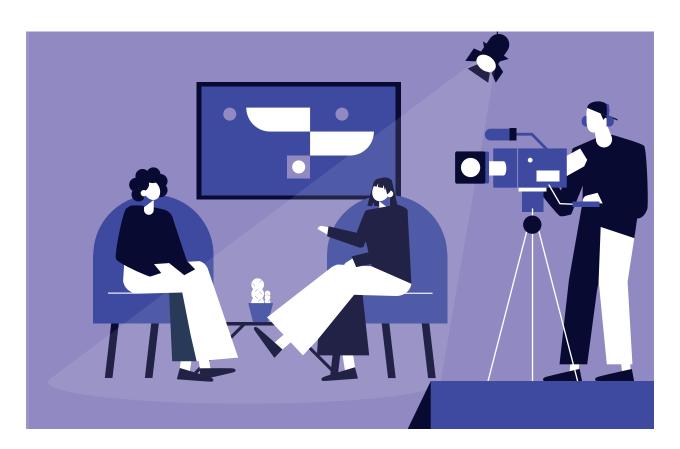
legality of any service providing cultural content. Developed by Arcom, the EOL extension (legal offer extension)<sup>2</sup> can be downloaded directly from browser stores. When a user finds a service on the Internet, a symbol appears – when the service is well referenced by Arcom – that shows it respects intellectual property rights.

Lastly, the development of legal offers requires that awareness-raising actions aimed at professionals, the general public and, more particularly, school audiences be reinforced. Legal offers protect creation as well as users from the dangers of using illegal services. Eighty percent of these services pose IT risks to their users and expose them to threats to their personal or bank data or to inappropriate content.

Arcom takes action upstream with these stakeholders in order to facilitate dialogue and the implementation of this measure.

With the EOL extension, Internet users can check at a glance whether the site on which they are watching a film or series, listening to music, reading a book, playing a video game or consulting an image is respectful of copyright.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Service providers are required to provide institutions open to the public (libraries, archives, documentation centres, etc.) with a digital file of the works theγ publish in a format that facilitates the production of documents suited to people with disabilities.



# FINANCING AND PROMOTION OF AUDIOVISUAL AND FILM PRODUCTION

"Under the aegis of Arcom, French and European creation thus benefits from sustainable sources of funding and guaranteed programming" Arcom ensures compliance with the broadcasting and funding obligations imposed by law on audiovisual stakeholders. For radio services, this contribution takes the form of quotas for French-language songs. For television channels, there are broadcasting quotas and obligations to invest in cinema and audiovisual works. For on-demand audiovisual media services (OD-AVMSs), there are programming and promotion quotas as well as obligations to invest in the production of cinema and audiovisual works. Under the aegis of Arcom, French and European creation thus benefits from sustainable sources of funding and guaranteed programming.

#### INTERNATIONAL ON-DEMAND AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA SERVICES (OD-AVMSS) INTEGRATED INTO THE FRENCH SYSTEM FOR THE FINANCING OF CREATION

The main SMADs established abroad and offering their film and audiovisual services on the French market (such as Netflix, Disney +, Amazon Prime Video, etc.) have now joined the French system for funding creation. The total amount of contributions to the production of audiovisual and cinematographic works over a full year is in the region of 250 to 300 million euros. Arcom takes great care to ensure that these obligations, which actively contribute to the vitality and influence of French and European creation, are met.

"Arcom pays close attention to compliance with these obligations, which actively contribute to the vitality and spread of French and European creation"

# TAKING ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL SERVICES

In 2022, 9.2 million people used illegal Internet services every month; these services' counterfeiting activity represents more than €1 billion per year in lost revenue in the audiovisual sector alone. While the combined action of creative stakeholders and public authorities has helped to encourage legal practices¹, the piracy of cultural content still continues. In order to take meaningful and effective action against this phenomenon, Arcom is deploying a new mechanism against services that illegally broadcast cultural or sports content.

To combat the piracy of cultural content, the Authority can identify illegal services and add them to a list of infringing services. This list informs users and encourages intermediaries (advertising or online payment intermediaries or technical hosts) to stop collaborating with the identified services.

<sup>1</sup> In 2022, 62% of Internet users and nearly three quarters (73%) of consumers of digital cultural goods will be exclusively legal users This characterisation carried out by Arcom can also be used by right holders in their legal actions to obtain the blocking of illegal services. The aim is thus to isolate illegal services before right holders ask a judge to block them.

Arcom may also be asked, after the judge's decision, to block services that include all or a substantial part of the content of a service that has already been blocked. It is thus responsible for updating court decisions against services that sometimes succeed very quickly in making illegal content<sup>2</sup> available again to the general public.

The regulator is also tasked with encouraging the signing of agreements between right holders and all stakeholders likely to put an end to infringements of copyright and related rights on the Internet. Such agreements help to protect creation.

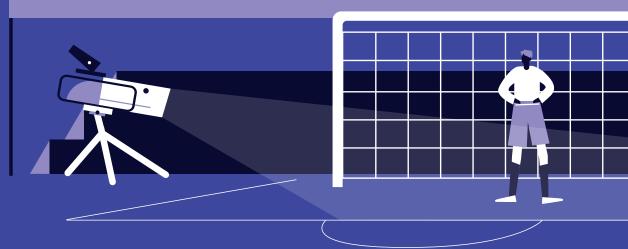
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This content is made available on "mirror" sites

# FOCUS ON

# THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PIRACY OF SPORTS BROADCASTS

The current system, set out in the Sports Code, takes into account the urgency of blocking the live streaming of sports events, considering that the damage caused in this situation is instantaneous and irreversible. With the creation of Arcom, right holders can take legal action to block services that illegally broadcast a sports competition. The judge may decide to temporarily block any service broadcasting the competition illegally, whether or not it has been identified at the time of the decision, for the days listed in the official competition calendar and for the duration of its broadcasting. Arcom is therefore responsible for updating these dynamic orders issued by the judge. Throughout the period covered by the court decision, right holders may transmit data identifying services illegally broadcasting a sporting event to the Authority, which may request that they be blocked. Since 1 January 2022, this new procedure has resulted in the closure of more than 1,500 pirate sites. 40% of live-stream sports consumers experienced being blocked from infringing websites in the first half of 2022.







# MAKING PLATFORMS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTED CONTENT

Article 17 of the Copyright Directive gives creators the right to authorise or prohibit the uploading of their works to major platforms and to negotiate, where appropriate, the terms of use.

"Arcom may be called upon by a user or a right holder to settle a dispute relating to the action taken by a platform in response to a contested blocking order"

The aim is to restore more balanced competition between these new players and providers of music or audiovisual streaming services.

Arcom is responsible for encouraging cooperation between right holders and providers of online content sharing services and for assessing the effectiveness of the measures taken by platforms.

Today, 87% of Internet users consider that the rules put in place by platforms to allow authors to be paid are justified. The Authority will need to ensure that the legitimate uses of users, in particular under exceptions to copyright, are preserved. Arcom may be called upon by a user or a right holder to settle a dispute relating to the action taken by a platform in response to a contested blocking order.

# ALERTING USERS AND DETERRING ILLEGAL PRACTICES, WITH A GRADUATED RESPONSE

A graduated response is the mechanism that allows Arcom to reach out to the general public to curb the phenomenon of piracy. The first step of a graduated response is to inform Internet subscribers that their connection has been used for infringing purposes on peer-to-peer networks.

Its aims are to encourage them to take action to stop these illegal practices and steer them towards offers that respect creators. When the messages sent by the Authority are not sufficient to stop the infringements, a second step is initiated. It consists of transmitting the subscriber's file to the Prosecutor, who decides what action to take.

In 75% of cases, warned Internet users do not reoffend. Between 2009 and 2022, illegal peer-to-peer practices fell by more than 75%. According to the illegal audience report for 2022, 2 million Internet users have illegally consumed digital content on a peer-to-peer basis.

# CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SAFER INTERNET



# COMBATING INFORMATION MANIPULATION

The Act of 22 December 2018 on the fight against information manipulation entrusts Arcom with the task of monitoring the obligation for online platform operators to take certain measures to combat the dissemination of false information. Every year, Arcom sends online platform operators a questionnaire – based on its observations and the work of the dedicated committee of experts it has set up – in order to help them prepare their annual declaration. An assessment by Arcom then analyses the means deployed by operators and includes a list of recommendations to improve the effectiveness and transparency of these mechanisms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Platforms with five million or more unique visitors per month in France.

#### **COMBATING ONLINE HATE**

The Act of 24 June 2020 provides for the creation of a monitoring centre to combat hateful content on the Internet. Chaired by Arcom, the "Online Hate Observatory", which brings together operators, associations, government agencies and researchers, analyses and quantifies this phenomenon in order to improve the understanding of its drivers and dynamics. In May 2020, the Observatory drew up an initial assessment of the work carried out and described consolidated dialogue and cooperation between stakeholders.

Article 42 of the Act of 24 August 2021 consolidating the respect of the principles of the Republic introduces two articles that amend the Acts of 2004 and 1986 and establish the administrative regulation of illegal online content of a hateful nature.

Article 6-4 of the Act of 21 June 2004 imposes procedural obligations and obligations of means on operators exceeding a certain threshold of unique monthly visitors; above a higher threshold, very large platforms are subject to obligations to assess and mitigate the systemic risks associated with their service.

The adoption of the EU Digital Services Regulation in late 2022 marks a new step in building a safer digital space across the continent. Its proper application in France is a priority for Arcom, which has contributed to this regulation, particularly through its involvement in the ERGA.

"Arcom is not meant to regulate the Internet. Its mission is to ensure that the measures provided for by the legislature are implemented and respected by content platforms and social networks"

Arcom has issued guidelines for online platform operators.

The Authority has the power to impose penalties of up to €20 million or 6% of worldwide turnover.

Article 62 of the Act of 30 September 1986 establishes the administrative regulation of the obligations of means imposed on operators and endows Arcom with a mission to monitor these obligations and the power to sanction in the event of continued infringement after formal notice.

# **FOCUS ON**

# EDUCATION ABOUT THE MEDIA AND INFORMATION



Arcom implements initiatives to educate people about the media, information and digital citizenship, as awareness-raising actions on the protection of creation. Faced with the spread of hate speech and false information, it seemed essential to give young people keys for understanding information and digital systems, inform them about the responsible use of the Internet and social networks, and test their critical thinking.

Moreover, this young audience is the one that accesses the most cultural content online and is the most exposed to the risks posed by illegal services. The regulator, together with its educational and institutional partners, designs educational kits for parents, pupils and their teachers. The content addresses various issues such as gender equality in the media, freedom of expression, respect for creation, and Internet rights.



#### **PREVENTING MINORS** FROM ACCESSING ONLINE **PORNOGRAPHY**

The Act of 30 July 2020 aimed at protecting victims of domestic violence mandates Arcom to enforce the ban on access to pornographic sites for minors. A provider of an adult website whose age control system is not satisfactory may be warned by Arcom and have its service blocked and/or removed from search engines, by decision of the President of the Paris judicial court. As with television and radio, Arcom protects young people in the digital sphere from age-inappropriate content.

#### **REGULATING THE COMMERCIAL USE** OF CHILDREN'S IMAGES ON ONLINE **PLATFORMS**

The Act of 19 October 2020, known as the "Studer Act", aims to regulate the work of "child influencers" on online video platforms. As is the case for child actors and models, the activity of children under the age of 16 is now subject to specific provisions in the Labour Code. Children also have the right to digital oblivion. Under the aegis of Arcom, a charter was signed in late 2022 between child protection associations and video-sharing platforms so that the latter would undertake to better inform minors about the consequences of exposing their private lives on the internet. The first so-called "Studer Charter" was signed on 28 November 2022.

#### **FIGHTING AGAINST SITES** THAT PROVOKE OR GLORIFY **ACTS OF TERRORISM** AND SITES CONTAINING **PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF MINORS**

The Act of 13 November 2014 on the fight against terrorism allows for the blocking of such websites by a statutory authority. It also allows for administrative measures to remove and dereferencing that same content, addressed by the statutory authority to publishers, hosts and search engines. In order to avoid any measure that would be disproportionate or abusive, the act submits the system to the control of a qualified person appointed from among its members by the authority with jurisdiction. Since 7 June 2022, that jurisdiction has been attributed to Arcom. The qualified person verifies the merits of requests for removal of content, blocking and delisting made by the Central Office for Combating Information and Communication Technology Crime (OCLCTIC). If it finds that such requests were not in conformity with the texts in force, it issues recommendations to lift or withdraw the blocking or removal measure. It may refer the matter to the administrative judge in the event of difficulty. As part of its action, it is provided with dedicated technical means to access blocked sites or the content of online public communication services. The authority's staff shall assist the qualified person in their duties.

# PROMOTING THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Article 14 of the Act of 22 August 2021 gives Arcom the task of promoting sectoral and cross-sectoral codes of good environmental conduct called "climate contracts". They aim to reduce the number of commercial communications about goods and services that have a negative impact on the environment.

Arcom is responsible for carrying out an annual assessment, in conjunction with the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), of the effectiveness of these codes of conduct in terms of reducing commercial communications dealing with activities with a negative environmental impact.

# STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN FRENCH-SPEAKING MEDIA REGULATORS

The 7<sup>th</sup> conference of the Chairs of the member authorities of REFRAM, the French-speaking network of media regulators, was held in Paris in 2022. The conference theme was the regulation of online platforms.

At the end of their work, the Chairs of the authorities adopted a joint declaration on adapting the audiovisual regulation to the issues and challenges raised by online platforms. With this declaration, they affirmed their determination to take part in the common reflections and sharing of experience on new tools and methods for regulating online content platforms.

Roch-Olivier Maistre, Chair of Arcom, was appointed Chair of REFRAM for two years at the end of the conference.

# PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN-SCALE REGULATION

The European Regulators' Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) is composed of the 27 national regulatory authorities of the European Union. Its role is to advise the European Commission and facilitate cooperation between EU regulatory bodies.

Within ERGA, Arcom follows the texts concerning its scope of activity, notably the draft regulation on media freedom or the European Code of Practice on Disinformation. It thus contributes to developing a common European audiovisual and digital regulatory model.

"Arcom contributes to developing a common European audiovisual and digital regulatory model



# OUR STUDIES AT THE SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONALS

The studies undertaken by Arcom cover all the topics within the regulator's remit. They report on cultural, technical, economic and legal uses and developments observed on the airwaves and online. This work informs the reflection, decisions and opinions of Arcom's board and provides the general public and the research community with elements for understanding the challenges of the audiovisual and digital sector. These publications, which are based on numerous figures, observations and analyses, constitute a set of expertise made available to the general public and professionals.

# **FOCUS ON**

# 2022, THE FIRST YEAR OF ARCOM



More than a year after its creation, Arcom has published its first activity report, looking back at the highlights and major themes of 2022.

# **KEY FIGURES FOR 2022**

9

1 board of 9 members appointed by 5 different authorities (the President of the Republic, the National Assembly, the Senate, the Council of State and the Court of Cassation), thereby reinforcing the independence of the institution.

16

16 Arcom territorial delegations in France (12) and the French overseas territories (4) for local regulation.

**10** 

10 directorates, 1 general secretariat for territories, 1 board secretariat and 1 accounting agency.

**19** 

19 formal notices and 9 sanctions issued by Arcom.

26

26 declarations of television services or groups of services subject to obligations to contribute to financing the production of controlled audiovisual works.

**45.4** 

45.4% of the population covered by digital terrestrial radio (DAB+ technology).

**502** 

502 websites and services deemed to respect intellectual propertγ rights are listed.

1.4

€1.4 billion of investment set aside in respect of audiovisual and cinematographic production obligations for French and foreign linear and non-linear services.

**1279** 

1,279 services illegally broadcasting sporting events blocked in 2022.

48 200

Almost 48,200 alerts filed by viewers and listeners via the "Alert us to a programme" form on the Arcom website.

# AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



1/

#### "Women's Sport Always" campaign

The aim of the "Women's Sport Always" campaign was to encourage the broadcast media to offer programmes promoting women's sport on their channels between 14 and 20 February 2022.



2/

# Press and Media Week in Schools

The 33rd edition of Press and Media Week in Schools (SPME) took place throughout France from 21 to 26 March 2022. Arcom is an annual partner of this event organised by the Centre de liaison de l'enseignement et des médias d'information (CLEMI).



3/

# Content rating for young audiences: new awareness campaign

New TV adverts, radio adverts and new tutorials: on Tuesday 15 November 2022, Arcom revealed its 2022-2026 campaign to raise awareness of content ratings for young audiences.



4/

#### "Children and Screens" campaign

Relayed by television channels, this information campaign has been running since 2008, reminding viewers that television programmes of all kinds are not suitable for children under the age of 3. From 8 to 11 July 2022, Arcom's recommendations and key messages on protecting young children were broadcast on the channels.



5/

#### "Let's Plaγ Together", the parasport media campaign

Organised by Arcom, the second edition of the "Let's Play Together" parasport awareness campaign was held from 14 to 20 November 2022.

# **HIGHLIGHTS**



### / JANUARY

#### **Creation of Arcom**

Created through the merger of the CSA and Hadopi, this new independent authority safeguards freedom of communication. It also intends to be attentive to the sector and its audiences and stakeholders. As such, it embodies a new type of regulation, capable of better responding to the major challenges of our time.



## / MARCH

# Report on "Representation of women in television and radio"

Every year, Arcom publishes a report on the "Representation of women in television and radio". The year 2021 revealed an improvement.



## / APRIL

### Opinion delivered to the French Competition Authority on the proposed merger of the TF1 and M6 groups

Arcom publishes its opinion delivered to the French Competition Authority on the proposed acquisition of exclusive control of Métropole Télévision (M6) by the Bouygues group. On 16 September 2022, M6 announced that it was withdrawing its proposed acquisition. This decision, which puts an end to the proceedings before the Competition Authority, also brings an end to the ongoing registration before the Authority of the change of control of the M6 group's terrestrial services.



# / MAY

### **DAB+: launch of DAB+ multiplexes** in La Rochelle, Poitiers and Tours

Digital terrestrial radio has reached a new stage in its roll-out with the launch of DAB+ radio stations in the La Rochelle, Orléans, Poitiers and Tours areas.

## / OCTOBER

#### Chairmanship of Radio France and France Médias Monde

# radiofrance

of the Act of 30 September 1986, following interviews with the candidates and a secret ballot, Arcom appoints Sibyle Veil as Chairwoman of Radio France for a five-year term commencing on 16 April 2023.

### France • médias • monde

In accordance with the provisions of Article 47-4 In accordance with the provisions of Article 47-4 of the Law of 30 September 1986, after interviews with the candidates and a secret ballot, Arcom appointed Ms Marie-Christine Saragosse as Chair of France Médias Monde, for a five-year term commencing on 23 April 2023.



## / OCTOBER

#### **Arcom takes over chairmanship of REFRAM**

On 6 and 7 October in Pairs, Arcom chaired 7th conference of the Chairs of the member authorities of REFRAM, the French-speaking network of media regulators. At the close of the Conference, Arcom Chair Roch-Olivier Maistre was appointed Chair of REFRAM for a two-year term.



# / OCTOBER

#### Piracy of sports content

Arcom published its report on the effectiveness of measures to block services illegally broadcasting sporting events, following a court ruling and a petition from rights holders.



# / NOVEMBER

# EMFA: Arcom contributes to the European Commission's public consultation

European Media Freedom Act: Arcom publishes its contribution to the European Commission's public consultation.

Arcom thus reaffirms its unreserved support for the democratic, economic, social and cultural values and objectives enshrined in the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (known as the AVMS Directive).



# / NOVEMBER

#### **Combating information manipulation**

At a press conference, the Authority presented its assessment of the resources and measures implemented by operators to combat the manipulation of information, as well as an assessment of the three years of application of the December 2018 law.



# / NOVEMBER

#### **Combating online hate**

Under the legislation on combating the dissemination of online hate content, platforms are subject to obligations of resources and transparency in terms of combating online hate, and are liable to sanctions from Arcom if they fail to comply. In 2022, Arcom published guidelines for operators on implementing this legislation.



## / NOVEMBER

#### **Election periods**

Arcompublished its report on the 2022 election campaigns: election to the presidency of the Republic (10 April - 24 April 2022) and legislative elections (12 June - 19 June 2022).



# / NOVEMBER

#### First Study Day

In June 2022, Arcom published a call for contributions from the scientific community, in order to select the works of researchers dealing with subjects related to its missions and to organise the Authority's first study day. Arcom's first study day is an opportunity for researchers in the humanities and social sciences to present and discuss their work on audiovisual and digital media with an audience of experts. Read all the presentations given by the researchers at Arcom's head office.



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