
**THE REPORT OF
THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE BLACK SEA BROADCASTING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FORUM
(BRAF)**

**16-18 September 2025
Tirana & Vlora, Albania**

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAF) was held in Tirana and Vlora, Albania between 16th- 18th of September 2025. Hosted by Albanian Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA), the main theme of the Meeting was determined as “Hate Speech & Freedom of Information on Audiovisual Media & Online Platforms”.

The representatives of BRAF Member Authorities, namely the **Albanian** Audiovisual Media Authority, Commission on TV and Radio of **Armenia**, Audiovisual Council of the Republic of **Azerbaijan**, **Bulgarian** Council for Electronic Media, **Georgian** National Communications Commission, **Greek** National Council for Radio and Television, **Moldovan** Audiovisual Council, **Serbian** Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media and **Turkish** Radio and Television Supreme Council, participated the Meeting.

The 12th Annual Meeting of BRAF started with approval of the Agenda, which is attached as appendix, on 17th of September 2025. Thereafter, the Meeting continued with welcoming remarks of Ms. Armela KRASNIQI, Chair of AMA, and opening speech of Dr. Deniz GÜÇER, the Secretary General of BRAF and Member of Turkish Radio and Television Supreme Council. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Merve Safa KAVAKCI, First Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Permanent International Secretariat also addressed the delegates of Member Authorities in the opening of the Meeting.

BRAF Secretary General Dr. GÜÇER stated that Annual Meetings serve to reaffirm mutual commitment to fostering a media environment based on responsibility, dialogue and respect. Secretary General also mentioned the theme of the Meeting, “Hate Speech & Freedom of Information”, and stressed that hate speech erodes public trust, deepens cleavage, and if unregulated, it fuels violence. Dr. Deniz GÜÇER also added that combatting hate speech requires responsibility that demands coordination, clarity and resolve.

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Merve Safa KAVAKCI expressed appreciation about the effective functioning of BRAF, as it continues to promote the objectives of BSEC when it comes to fostering the exchange of information and experience in the broadcasting sector of the Black Sea region, thus contributing at enhancing dialogue and diversifying cooperation in the wider Black Sea area.

A brief revision of the 11th BRAF Annual Meeting, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 14-16 April 2025, was presented by the BRAF Permanent Secretariat. The presentation was comprised of the work done in general and particularly about the two panels on “Protecting Children in Broadcasting Services”.

The representatives of the broadcasting regulatory authorities of the participating countries made presentations, provided information and exchanged views regarding the progress and objectives achieved in the broadcasting sector in their countries, since the previous Annual Meeting of BRAf, as a part of their Country Reports.

During the Meeting, it was decided that the Term Presidency of BRAf in 2026 was unanimously handed over to the Bulgarian Council for Electronic Media.

The Meeting continued on the next day with two panel sessions on the topics of “Hate Speech & Freedom of Information on Audiovisual Media: Ethical Guidelines and Legal Frameworks for Balancing Freedom of Information and Public Safety” and “Hate Speech & Freedom of Information on Online Platforms: Public Awareness Campaigns and International Perspectives on Regulating Online Media Content” respectively.

The participants presented the current situation in their countries and the regulatory practices with specific examples during the sessions. Panelists also exchanged their opinions and experiences in relation to national practices by referring to the similarities and discrepancies in terms of regulations along with the need of further cooperation among stakeholders. The presentations and the relevant data shall be available at the BRAf website “<http://www.braf.info>”.

The delegations expressed their sincere gratitude to the Audiovisual Media Authority of Albania for the warm and generous hospitality and the excellent organization of the Meeting in the beautiful cities of Tirana and Vlora.

Annex: Agenda of the Meeting