

Self-Regulation

as

Soft Power

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“Media Ethics Observatory”

“Information Dispute Council”

- 14 members
- Group initiative
- Mandated by 46 media entities and 8 media unions – signatories of Ethics Code
- Decides claims submitted by disputing parties
 - Quasi-legal proceedings
 - Resolutions
 - Opinions
- Issues self-regulatory papers
 - Guidelines
 - Opinions

Media Ethics Observatory



Purpose: Dispute resolution
Self-regulatory guidelines

Information Disputes Council



- 5 members
- Group initiative – not a legal or physical entity
- *Think tank*
- Issues opinions on public interest court cases
- *Amicus-curie*
- Training of journalists and legal professionals

Information Disputes Council



Purpose: Spread of new concepts

Media Ethics Observatory

Dispute resolution body

Quasi legal proceeding

Based on a claim by a party

Resolution

Binding on parties

Regular and new concepts

Adopts self-regulatory papers

Public recognition

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Information Disputes Council

Not a dispute resolution body

No proceeding

No claim

Opinion

No binding force

New concepts

No such role

Public recognition

NEW IDEAS, NEW CONCEPTS

- **Media Ethics Observatory**
- **Information Disputes Council**

- **New concepts**
- **New principles**
- **New legal culture**
- **Filling the gaps**

Filling the gaps between domestic laws and int'l HR norms

- **Media Ethics Observatory**
- **Information Disputes Council**

Beneficiaries

- Journalists
- Media experts
- Lawyers
- Courts
- Law enforcement bodies
- Public regulatory bodies
- Political fractions
- Civil society

- **Media Ethics Observatory**
- **Information Disputes Council**

SOFT POWER

- **Media Ethics Observatory**
- **Information Disputes Council**

**Demonstration of
soft power**

through

quasi-legal
instruments/norms

- *Accessible* personal data on Facebook can be used by journalists;
- Ban of manipulation of credulity of people interviewed by journalist;
- Lack of overriding *public interest* for disclosure of medical records;
- Lack of overriding *public interest* for use of secret filming;
- www.Blognews.am news aggregator is a media entity and its Facebook page is important “market booster” – ethics and statutory norms are applicable;
- News coverage of vulnerable groups (child victims of crime);

- ❑ Self-regulatory guidelines on:
 - news coverage of elections and public gatherings;
 - News coverage of international and internal armed conflicts;
 - on non-discrimination and tolerance in news coverage;
 - Ethics norms of journalists and editors working at social networks;
 - Defamation and insult norms based on *Delfi v. Estonia* ECHR judgment

Information Disputes Council



- Cartoons enjoy wide FoE protection
- “*Notice and Take Down*” defense in digital media
- News archives in digital media are under FoE protection
- Concept of “*publication*” in social media
- “*Sharing*” in FB is a public statement
- Access to internet is human rights
- Anonymity is protected under FoE
- Trolling is a form of hate speech not protected by FoE