

Introduction

The preparation of this monographic edition of *Quaderns del CAC* on the part of the services of the Audiovisual Council of Catalonia has taken place within the context of a priority line of action in the area of the media adopted by the European Union as a result of the Liverpool Broadcasting Conference (2005). Since this event, the Parliament and Commission, through the general directorate of the Information Society and the Media, have set up extensive consultation on pluralism. Just when this edition was being concluded, the Commission published the working document *Media pluralism in the Member States of the European Union* (17 January 2007, SEC-2007-32). With this document, the Commission committed itself to advancing the definition of pluralism in the media, commissioned a study of pluralism indicators and announced an initiative for 2008 in the form of a Commission Communication on this problem.

One of the contributions introduced by the European Commission document is an important distinction between external pluralism (related to media ownership) and internal pluralism (related to content). The CAC has exercised functions in the area of internal pluralism regarding the television and radio broadcasts under its authority since 2001, the year when the parliament of Catalonia issued its *Report on news pluralism of the public radio and television media in Catalonia*. This document challenged the lack of legal definition of pluralism with some conceptual and methodological proposals that have allowed the CAC, in line with what the French CSA have done, to draw up and publish monthly reports on pluralism in Catalonia to date. The CAC has understood internal pluralism in a broad sense: a political sense but also social, religious, cultural, territorial, gender, etc.

The aim of this edition on "News pluralism on television" is to present an initial review of the three years spent monitoring internal pluralism on this medium based on the CAC's monthly reports. The data are from 2003, 2004 and 2005 (with the exception of July and August 2003). The channels examined are TV3, TVE in Catalonia, BTV, Citytv and Localia. And the sample of programmes consists of two types: TV news and other news programmes (debate, talk shows and interviews).

This single-themed edition starts with three articles outlining the context and methodology for the study: "Pluralism in broadcasting: problems and future" by Joan Botella; "Methodology of the Audiovisual Council of Catalonia for monitoring pluralism in news broadcasts", by Carles López; and "Monitoring news pluralism on the radio and television in Europe", by Anna Estrada. These are followed by articles on each of the areas of internal pluralism studied: "The thematic agenda of news broadcasts in Catalonia", by Carmina Puig; "The presence of political agents in news broadcasts", by Laura Rodas; "Political pluralism during the electoral cycle of the period 2003-2004", by Carme Ortín; "The presence of territorial areas in news broadcasts", by Isabel Sánchez; "The visibility of social agents in news", by Laura Rodas; and "How the variable *gender* is treated in news broadcasts", by Carmina Puig and Isabel Sánchez. The edition ends with the article "Other pluralisms: future perspectives for the analysis of pluralism", by Rafael Jorba. This monographic edition on pluralism, undoubtedly pioneering in its field, has been possible thanks to the patient and competent work of analysts and support staff of the CAC, under the coordination of Mònica Gasol and Carles López. Finally, this edition also includes, in the *Observatory* section, the article by Martí Petit regarding a "Review of public service broadcasting in the United Kingdom: the debate between Ofcom and the BBC" and that of Josep Àngel Guimerà on "Local television in Catalonia: a model undergoing extensive transformation".

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