

Web Review

FCC: Federal Communications Commission, Working group on media concentration **<http://www.fcc.gov/ownership/>**

In June 2006, the FCC started a new phase in regulating ownership of the main communication groups in the USA. According to Section 202(h) of the Telecommunications Act 1996, the agency must regularly review rules on concentration in order to "determine whether the rules are necessary for the public interest as a result of competition". This section in the act also establishes that the FCC must repeal or amend any regulation that it feels does not serve the public interest.

Media Access Project (MAP) **<http://www.mediaaccess.org/>**

Media Access Project is a non-profit organisation established 30 years ago and the only organisation based in Washington that represents the audience's voice and safeguards the right to access broadcasting media and telecommunications networks. MAP is present in the courts, the FCC and other official bodies. The association takes part in academic, legislative and professional forums defending the general interest in policies that affect the next generations.

Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR) **<http://www.fair.org/index.php>**

FAIR is the most important observatory for the communication sector in the USA. Since it was created in 1986, it has offered information and criticism and has deliberated over and fought against all kinds of censorship. It publishes reports that have been dismissed by the large media. As a progressive organisation, FAIR feels that an extensive reform is required of the communication system in the USA, dominated by a few multimedia corporations, to strengthen a public broadcasting service and promote powerful sources of information that are not based on any profit motive.

FCC: Industry analysis division **http://www.fcc.gov/mb/industry_analysis/**

This division regulates procedures related to the ownership of the media and takes part in applying or designing the economic aspects of policies in the sector. It also gathers data, analyses and draws up reports on the industry and market and draws up an annual report, which it presents to Congress, on the situation of effective competition in the distribution of broadcasting content.

Columbia Journal Review **<http://www.cjr.org/owners/>**

This journal from the Journalism Faculty of Columbia University (the institution that awards the Pulitzer Prize) regularly publishes and updates the list of shareholders in the main communication groups in the world. The section "Who owns what" is a basic reference in studying trends in media ownership.

Coalition for Media Freedom and Integrity **http://www.olmcm.org/dbData/Resources/Declaration_and_signatories_280207-1updated2.pdf**

Coalition of various organisations, foundations and NGOs in order to achieve an open and inclusive communication system with public presence and commitment, that ensures freedom and professional independence, that reinforces intercultural dialogue, etc. The following promote this coalition: Online/More Colour in the Media (www.olmcm.org), European Federation of Journalists (www.ifj-europe.org), Open Society Institute–Network Media Program, www.soros.org/initiatives/media, Signis (www.signis.org) MiraMedia (www.miramedia.nl), European Women's Lobby (www.womenlobby.org), Article 19 (www.Article19.org) and Community Media Forum Europe (<http://www.cmfe.net/>).

Center for Public Integrity

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/telecom/>

The Center for Public Integrity is one of the most prestigious bodies in the USA related to communication policies that are integrating, open, promote transparency and diversity. It draws up high quality reports and publishes databases of different areas of North American policy. Based in Washington, it claims that large corporations and the federal government have created a network of interests in the telecommunications sector and the media.

Mediachannel

<http://www.mediachannel.org/ownership/>

Mediachannel is an alternative communication channel with an extensive presence, both in the USA and in other countries. It specialises in studying and attempting to promote control over media ownership. It believes that the deregulation of the sector has eroded the diversity of the media, political debate, the quality of journalism, media ownership by minority groups, at the same time as allowing a rise in the fees for pay services (cable, satellite, etc.).

Declaration of the Council of Ministers on the protection of the role of the media in democracy within the context of media concentration - Council of Europe

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1089615&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75>

This declaration, adopted on 31 January 2007, reaffirms the need to apply regulatory policies on the communication sector in order to ensure the full transparency of media ownership. This series of measures, which should ideally be applied by independent regulatory authorities, must strengthen the role of the media in the democratic processes of our societies.

Free Press

<http://www.freepress.net/>

Free Press is a non-party organisation at a national level that works to encourage participation in debates on communication policy. Its aim is public intervention that guarantees competition (and that therefore fights against oligopolies) and that strengthens a system of media aimed at the public interest, with a powerful non-commercial sector.

Center for Creative Voices

<http://www.creativevoices.us/>

The aim of this organisation is to safeguard and enrich the vitality and diversity of democracy in the USA by training legislators, regulators, lawyers and the media. This organisation's ideal is a society with a plural and independent communicative ecosystem, with a "large number of creative voices".

Media Alliance

<http://www.media-alliance.org/>

Media Alliance is a media resource centre for academics, non-profit organisations and socially active bodies. One of its lines of work is broadband access and digital inclusion. In this respect, this 30-year-old NGO pressurises and advises local governments on applying economic and other kinds of measures to achieve this aim. The pressure applied to San Francisco Council in California is particularly exemplary.

Media pluralism in the Member States of the European Union SEC(2007) 32

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media_taskforce/doc/pluralism/media_pluralism_swp_en.pdf

Working document from the European Commission approved on 16 January 2007, tackling the different perspectives and definitions of pluralism in the media (freedom of expression, concentration of ownership, international expansion of multimedia groups, cultural diversity, relations between communication policies and economic interests, etc.), as well as studying the regulations in each of the 27 states of the European Union.

Television Across Europe: Regulation, Policy and Independence

<http://www.soros.org/initiatives/media>

A EUMAP publication that analyses the European broadcasting sector, both in terms of the public and the private media, in a series of 3 volumes of 1,662 pages. It's the first report of its kind carried out in Europe, as it includes an appendix with a comparative study of 20 countries on the continent. EUMAP is an observatory of the Open Society Institute (ISO), the foundation created in 1993 by the financier and philanthropist George Soros in order to support the transition of countries from Eastern Europe and the former USSR.