



KEVIN AQUILINA

former Chief Executive Officer of the Maltese Broadcasting Authority

EPRA has been a fount of inspiration for me when carrying out my duties of Chief Executive Officer of the Maltese Broadcasting Authority. I really enjoyed participating in all EPRA meetings and in the informal discussions which took place outside the plenary session and working groups as the information and knowledge acquired could be put into practice on my return to Malta. I also got to know how fellow regulators had addressed and resolved common problems which intrigued us in Malta. The materials produced and disseminated by EPRA were of excellent quality, highly relevant, undoubtedly unique and very well focused intended to satisfy a practising broadcasting regulator's quest for knowledge. These materials, including the EPRA website, were an excellent source for the development of policies and decisions at national level and had the added comfort of knowing that they were being applied by a good number of regulators on a European level. These materials also helped the Maltese Broadcasting Authority to be up to date in the realm of broadcast regulation when advising Government in those broadcasting related areas not within the express remit of the Broadcasting Authority.

On a personal level, I made a lot of friends, friendship which I still value to the present day. Indeed, I could pick up the phone or write an e-mail to any regulatory member of EPRA and get a well-reasoned, detailed, comprehensive and informative reply to my query in such a short time. It is something which only a network like EPRA provides. Thanks to EPRA membership, I could circulate a questionnaire to EPRA members on a specific topic and get instantaneous feedback to the thorny issues of broadcast regulation current at the time. There is also a social dimension to EPRA which fosters the conclusion of bilateral relations amongst regulators and a profound spirit of co-operation in very down to earth regulatory matters. **Now that I have experienced directly and personally EPRA I really cannot figure out how regulators could and managed to function before it was established.**

Finally, I conclude by referring to the EPRA connection with Malta. EPRA was established in Malta. It thus makes the Maltese Broadcasting Authority proud to see how EPRA has grown, developed and matured over the last twenty years of its existence and all the positive results it has brought about to broadcasting regulators. Thank you EPRA and I wish you another twenty years of hard dedicated work in the interest of European co-operation, friendship and development of closer ties between regulators!

Best wishes, *Kevin*