

## Communication Law and Policy Section

### Annual Report.

The Communication Law and Policy Section of ECREA was launched in 2006 and ever since it has created a steady programme of academic initiatives. In 2010 the Section focused its efforts this year in the preparation and delivery of a high quality academic programme for the ECREA conference at the University of Hamburg. The programme was highly successful and panels raised important issues from the role of policy researchers in the policy process to the state of press and broadcasting in Europe, diversity and democracy in the governance of the media , content and pluralism. The full programme can be found here

[http://www.ecrea2010hamburg.eu/frontend/index.php?ses\\_id=3a239e7d072c3475a97a9e05290379e0&cs=13&page\\_id=150#1](http://www.ecrea2010hamburg.eu/frontend/index.php?ses_id=3a239e7d072c3475a97a9e05290379e0&cs=13&page_id=150#1).

A section business meeting was held at the Hamburg conference. The meeting dealt with the election of a new section board; the question as to whether full papers should be submitted to the section for major conferences; expansion of membership; and a call for the expression of interest in organising new events in 2011.

The new section board is Katharine Sarikakis (Chair) Carmina Crusafon and Manuel Puppis (Vice Chairs). The section thanks wholeheartedly Caroline Pauwels and Peter Humphreys for all their work to set up the section and develop it.

On 25 May 2010, the research centres Studies on Media, Information and Telecommunication (IBBT-SMIT) and the European Institute for European Studies (both of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel) organized a one-day conference within ECREA's Communications Law and Policy Section on the issue of ex ante evaluations of public broadcasters' new media services. The aim of this one-day conference was to reflect on the introduction of different ex ante evaluation instruments to assess both the public value and market impact of public broadcasters' new offers. As public broadcasters are expanding activities to new media markets and, as such, a public service media project is gradually replacing the traditional public service broadcasting policy project, a discussion of this highly topical issue was indeed very relevant.

Out of the papers presented at the 2009 Section's and University of Zurich workshop (held in Zurich), Natascha Just and Manuel Puppis are currently preparing an edited volume called "Trends in Communication Policy Research: New Theories, New Methods, New Subjects". This volume was selected by ECREA to be published in the ECREA Book Series. Scholars from a variety of countries contribute to the volume and bring in their specific expertise. Moreover, the book accomplishes to bring together papers from young scholars as well as of well-established and renowned academics.

The section's website is <http://commlawpolicy.wordpress.com/>

Katharine Sarikakis

Chair

Carmina Crusafon

Manuel Puppis

Vice Chairs