

*Research, analysis and opinion on international media law*

## Media Law International partners with events firm vFairs



### Media Law International is hosting its second Annual Global Conference on 24 May with vFairs providing the virtual event technology

Media Law International's Annual Global Conference will take place on the 24 May 2022, and will discuss the relevant issues, developments as well as challenges of the media law industry.

The event audience includes CEOs and GCs of media companies as well as lawyers from international and boutique law firms. Interested parties can go to the [event website](#), fill the registration form and buy their tickets to attend the conference.

Delegates will be able to view speaker sessions and panel discussions about relevant topics in the media law industry. This

year, MLI is focusing on digital content, press and entertainment due to their increasingly important role in the industry.

The event will be available on-demand for 30 days after it goes live. The conference will offer an immersive 3D experience, with hall, lobby and auditorium access for all delegates.

Zineb Serroukh-Ouarda, Managing Editor of MLI, said: "Media Law International is pleased to collaborate with vFairs on our second Annual Global Conference.

"vFairs offers a sophisticated event platform and user experience, with enhanced features that maximise coverage of our →

### Canada reveals bill requiring tech firms to pay for content

Canada has introduced legislation that requires Google, Facebook and other tech companies to pay news publishers for using their content.

The country's new law would enable news businesses to negotiate fair commercial deals with tech companies for news that is shared on their platforms.

The Online News Act is intended to compensate struggling news organisations, and follows similar laws introduced in Australia. Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez commented that Canada studied the Australian law extensively.

At a news conference held on 05 April in Ottawa. Mr Rodriguez said: "Right now, the health and future of the news industry — especially local news — are at risk.

"With this bill we are seeking to address this market imbalance."

He added: "We want to make sure that the news media and journalists are fairly compensated for their work. Now more than ever, Canadians need reliable and credible information, especially in a time of greater mistrust and disinformation."

The bill, enforced by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, is intended to address the "significant bargaining imbalance" between digital platforms and news businesses, to allow for fair, privately negotiated deals.

The proposed legislation is designed to support the Canadian media sector, which saw the closure of 450 outlets between 2008 and 2021, according to the government. ■

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## New Zealand's TVNZ and RNZ to merge in 'watershed moment' for media industry

The government has announced plans for the merger of New Zealand's TVNZ and RNZ, its radio and television broadcasting companies, to create a new, non-profit public media entity.

Details of the merger were revealed on 10 March by Broadcasting and Media Minister Kris Faafoi in a move intended to strengthen the public media sector.

The merger, a 'watershed moment' for the country's media, is described as the biggest shake-up of broadcasting in more than 30 years. The new entity is designed to ensure that New Zealand has a well-resourced comprehensive public media entity.

Commenting on the merger, Mr Faafoi said: "The sector is having to adapt to increased competition, changing audience demands and ways of accessing media."

He added: "RNZ and TVNZ are each trying to adjust to the challenges, but our current public media system, and the legislation it's based on, is focused on radio and television."

Mr Faafoi noted that radio and television are no longer the go-to sources for news as the internet is becoming the primary source of news. He explained: "We must be sure our public media can adapt to those audience changes, as well as other challenges that media will face in the future." ■

## UK unveils Online Safety Bill intended to regulate internet

The UK introduced its Online Safety Bill to parliament on 17 March, following months of debate, in an unprecedented attempt to regulate the internet.

The bill gives regulators wide-ranging enforcement powers to 'protect children, public safety and safeguard free speech'.

Under the new rules, tech executives could face criminal prosecution, with a jail term of up to six months for violations.

Companies could also be fined up to 10 per cent of their annual revenue if they fail to comply with the new regulations.

The move comes as regulators and legislators around the world seek to strengthen rules that govern the digital world, and increase online safety.

In a statement, UK Digital Secretary, Nadine Dorries commented: 'Tech firms haven't been held to account when harm, abuse and criminal behaviour have run riot on their platforms.'

Ms Dorries added: 'If we fail to act, we risk sacrificing the wellbeing and innocence of countless generations of children to the power of unchecked algorithms.'

The government has added 11 categories of offence that have been named in the bill as "priority illegal content".

These additional priority offences have been included as part of efforts of "stamp out illegal content".

New categories include assisting suicide, people smuggling, child sexual abuse, online drug and weapons dealing and fraud. ■

## Media Law International partners with vFairs

← our sponsors and speakers. This year's conference brings together speakers from global media brands and international law firms that will present on pressing global issues around media law.

"Our speakers include Facebook, The Guardian, Channel 4, TuneIn, UIB, OKO.Press, Mills Selig and Charles Russell Speechlys.

"Speaker sessions will be available on event day and on-demand for one month,

making our content accessible to a wider audience across time zones."

Muhammad Younas, CEO and Founder of vFairs, commented: "Media law is quite a fascinating field, and this event has some really relevant discussions surrounding it. With vFairs, these discussions are taking place on a global level."

The Media Law International Annual Global Conference will take place on 24 May

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2022, and will be up for 30 days after it goes live. The relevant delegates can buy their tickets and sign up on the event website.

vFairs is a virtual and hybrid events platform that helps organisations reach global audiences.

The platform offers an intuitive virtual experience along with interactive features excellent scalability, and several customisation options. ■

# MEDIA LAW INTERNATIONAL ®

## Second Annual Global Conference



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Contributing  
Speakers





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