

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY

Journalistic self-regulation and the responsible use of the communication process have been the Catalan Press Council (CIC) dominant themes throughout 2016. The VI Congress of Journalists of Catalonia, which was held in November 11th chaired by the Dean of the Association of Professional Journalists, Neus Bonet, was the framework for the presentation of the updated Code of Ethics, revised and adapted to the journalism of our time in the new digital era, and replaces what was approved in the Second Congress on November 1st, 1992.

My predecessor to the presidency of the CIC, Lúcia Oliva, in view of the complaints that came about the new deontological dilemmas that emerged with the technological changes, created a commission that worked courageously over four years until completing this essential goal, which the Dean highlighted in her speech: "Let's go to reflect on this crucial moment the information is undergoing. We must recover credibility and respect from the public. Let's rethink the Code of Ethics that inspires our actions. "

It can be said, therefore, that the reform of the Code was made at the request of the public, as the press councils have experienced in most European countries. The center of gravity is located in the appendixes, such as the B, which deals with the new ethical dilemmas that the network raise, requests editorial responsibility with an active monitoring of users participation and sets up the criteria for the documents staying online. The challenges are especially important with the rise of fake news, plagiarism and the uncertainty caused by the fact that any user would be self-proclaimed as a journalist. Naming the lies and falsehoods, maintaining a process of reflection and self-criticism and, ultimately, doing good journalism are the best recipes to recover the credibility of the public.

On the other hand, the CIC released a survey on the conflict of interest regarding journalists who do simultaneously advertising and information, with the recommendation to preserve, defend and promote the differentiation between commercial claims and journalistic content. It also elaborated some recommendations on the refugee crisis and its journalistic coverage. On the same topic, the Pompeu Fabra University hosted in October a seminar organized jointly by the CIC and the Committee on Arbitration, Complaints and Deontology of Journalism, with the participation of the president of the Federation of Associations of Journalists of Spain (FAPE) Elsa González, the President of the Commission, Rafael de Mendizábal and other prominent professionals.

The number of complaints remains constant -18, related to print and online media- with predominance of those concerning the rights of people to their privacy. In view that the public increasingly use social networks, the CIC do the same to spread the Code of Ethics and encourage the public to submit complaints online.