

Press release

25 Years of Corint Media: Minister of State Dr. Wolfram Weimer emphasises the vital importance of enforcing the rights of publishers and broadcasters against Big Tech platforms

Corint Media celebrates its 25th anniversary at its 2026 Annual General Assembly. Over the past 25 years, the collecting society has become the central rights management organisation for the private media industry. Today, it represents the interests of 23 shareholders and 575 rights holders vis-à-vis users, platforms and Big Tech companies.

Dr. Nina Gerhardt, CEO of RTL Radio Deutschland GmbH, newly elected to the Supervisory Board.

Berlin, 24 March 2026. At its 2026 Annual General Assembly, Corint Media celebrated its 25th anniversary together with its rights holders, committees and guests. In addition to the report on the 2025 financial year, the focus was on the challenge of securing the future refinancing of professional media content for the represented TV and radio stations as well as press publishers. The necessary conditions for the effective enforcement of legally protected rights against market-dominant platform companies were also addressed, as were the regulatory framework conditions required for private media in the digital platform economy.

In his keynote address marking the 25th anniversary of Corint Media, the Minister of State for Culture and Media, Dr Wolfram Weimer, painted a stark picture of the current threat to free media in the age of artificial intelligence. The focus was on the intensifying battle for the refinancing of journalistic content, its commercial exploitation, and the media policy initiatives of the current legislative period. Minister of State Dr Weimer also emphasised that a digital levy or tax, as a standalone media policy instrument, would leave the rights of publishers and broadcasters vis-à-vis platform companies unaffected. Their effective enforcement remains indispensable regardless. He stated: *“The effective enforcement of the rights of publishers and broadcasters vis-à-vis platform companies is indispensable. These private-sector business models safeguard the diversity and independence of the media. They are therefore of fundamental importance to the democratic community. A digital levy or tax cannot and should not replace this.”*

The *Chairman* of the Supervisory Board of Corint Media, Dr Michael Müller, Chief Officer of Regulatory Affairs, External & Governmental Relations at ProSiebenSat.1 Media SE, stated in his speech: *“This is the reality in 2026: more than half of every euro spent on advertising in Germany now goes to Google, Meta and Amazon. This trend threatens the economic foundations of German publishers and broadcasters. That is why solidarity among rights holders, a resolute policy and support from regulatory authorities are essential. Corint Media will not cease to demand this. Together, we must preserve what distinguishes the German media landscape: diversity and reliability.”*

At the annual general meeting, Corint Media underlined that pressure on publishers and broadcasters in the digital environment continues to mount. Platforms, search engines and AI providers are making increasing use of journalistic content, whilst the economic basis of content providers is being increasingly eroded. This makes

collective rights management, fair market conditions and the consistent enforcement of existing claims all the more crucial.

At the same time, the annual general meeting marked a special anniversary: since its foundation in 2001, Corint Media has been pooling and representing the copyright and neighbouring rights of private media companies. Over the past 25 years, Corint Media has become the central rights management organisation for the private media sector. Today, it consistently represents the interests of 23 shareholders and 575 rights holders vis-à-vis users, platforms and other market players. In 2025, its total turnover since its foundation exceeded 1 billion euros.

At the annual general meetings, Dr Nina Gerhardt, CEO of RTL Radio Deutschland GmbH, was also elected as a new member of the Supervisory Board. Her predecessor, the long-standing REGIOCAST Managing Director Dirk van Loh, had stepped down at the end of 2025 for personal reasons. Back in the summer of 2025, Andreas Gerhardt, Chief Content & Distribution Officer at SPORT1 GmbH, succeeded the former Co-CEO of Sport1 and long-standing member of the Corint Media Supervisory Board, Dr Matthias Kirschenhofer.

The regular election of delegates and alternate delegates also took place. Andreas Müller (Mediahuis Aachen GmbH), Dr Daniel Daum (Chemnitzer Verlag und Druck GmbH & Co. KG) and Dirk Holterdorf (E. Holterdorf GmbH & Co. KG) were elected as delegates for the Publishers' Group. Inken Boyens (Boyens Medienholding GmbH & Co. KG), Kai Röhrbein (J. Gronemann GmbH & Co. KG) and Ileri Meier (HITZEROTH Druck + Medien GmbH & Co. KG) were appointed as substitute delegates.

Nikolai Schulze-Sölde (RTL 2 Fernsehen GmbH & Co. KG) and Vera Nickel (Home Shopping Europe GmbH) were elected as delegates for the Broadcasting Companies / Television Division. Michael Keidel (VIMN Germany GmbH) and Benjamin Pirker (Discovery Communications Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG) were appointed as substitute delegates.

Sara Laier (Radio Rockland GmbH & Co. KG) was elected as delegate for the Broadcasting Companies Group / Radio Sector. The alternate delegate is Christine Rupp (Radio TON-Regional Hörfunk GmbH & Co. KG).

Corint Media is a European company operating in the private media industry. It represents the copyright and neighbouring rights of virtually all German and several international private television and radio broadcasters, as well as numerous press publishers.

The media companies represented by Corint Media include TV broadcasters such as Sat.1, ProSieben, RTL, WELT, SPORT1, CNBC, Eurosport, VOX and CNN; radio stations such as ANTENNE BAYERN, radio ffn, Klassik Radio, Radio Hamburg, Hit Radio FFH, RADIO PSR, R.SH, RPR1 and RTL RADIO, as well as newspaper publishers such as Axel Springer, Verlagsgesellschaft Madsack, Mediengruppe Pressedruck, Aschendorff Mediengruppe, Rheinische Post Mediengruppe, sh:z Schleswig-Holsteinischer Zeitungsverlag and Badische Verlag.

Corint Media is one of 13 collecting societies licensed in Germany and is supervised by the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA).