

Press release

PRINT MEDIA DISTRIBUTION

Arcep publishes a decision on the rules for calculating balanced cost distribution between print media companies

Paris, 26 November 2021

The Bichet Act provides for the creation of a mechanism of “balanced distribution” for the specific, unavoidable costs induced by the distribution of daily newspapers, between all publishers, of both daily papers and periodicals.

New calculation rules established by Arcep to provide market stakeholders with more clarity

The modelling work that Arcep began in 2020 to define the rules for calculating balanced cost distribution was informed by the sector’s stakeholders’ contributions to two public consultations: the first¹ on the fundamentals of the method used to calculate balanced cost distribution, and on the procedures for organising payment flows, and the second² on the balanced cost distribution model developed by Arcep. The contributions to this second consultation are also being published today.

The model detailed in today’s decision was designed to make it possible to calculate balanced cost distribution and to update it annually based on reliable data that can be easily verified by Arcep.

The goal is to implement in 2021, based on balanced cost distribution calculations for 2020

Through its [Decision No. 2020-0742](#) of 8 July 2020, aimed at introducing temporary measures, Arcep sought to maintain, at least temporarily, the main principles of the existing mechanisms put into place by CSMP, which were based on provisional instalments with an annual correction. It had thus set the amount of the provisional monthly instalments due from each print media industry enterprise.

These instalments were due to be corrected once the amount of the equalisation was determined based on the calculation rules set forth in the decision that Arcep is publishing today. A separate decision will be made before the end of the year to determine the amount of the equalisation and of the corrections for 2020, as well as the amount of the new single instalment that will be in force for 2021.

Associated documents:

- [Arcep Decision No 2021-2531 setting the rules for calculating balanced cost distribution between print media companies, pursuant to Par. 3 of Article 18 of Act No. 47-585, amended \(“Bichet Act”\)](#)
- [The six contributions received to Arcep’s second public consultation \(from CELIN, FNPS, France Messagerie, MLP, SAEP, SPQN\)](#)

Arcep at a glance

The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications, Postal Affairs and Print Media Distribution (Arcep), a neutral and expert arbitrator with the status of independent administrative authority (IAA), is the architect and guardian of internet, fixed and mobile communications and postal networks in France.

¹ From 17 December 2020 to 1 February 2021, <https://www.arcep.fr/actualites/les-consultations-publiques/p/gp/detail/consultation-perequation-presse-projet-decision-regles-calcul-juil2021.html>

² From 29 July to 30 September 2021, <https://www.arcep.fr/actualites/les-consultations-publiques/p/gp/detail/proposition-modalites-calcul-perequation-entre-entreprises-de-presse-181220.html>