OpenAI has announced partnerships with Le Monde and Prisa Media, paving the way for ChatGPT users to access French and Spanish content. ‘Our partnership with OpenAI is a strategic move to ensure the dissemination of reliable information to AI users, safeguarding our journalistic integrity and revenue streams in the process,’ Le Monde CEO Louis Dreyfus said. The content will also be used to train generative AI models. Last year OpenAI signed similar deals with publishers Axel Springer and Associated Press while the New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft for using its articles without permission.

Paratus Zambia has announced the completion of a 700 km open-access metro fibre network connecting 10 Zambian cities and towns. The project was a partnership with Meta Platforms and construction began at the end of 2022. The network will connect to a carrier-neutral data centre in Lusaka and enable Paratus to offer wholesale services to mobile network operators and internet service providers. It is expected to improve connectivity in underserved communities in towns and cities across Zambia.

Apple shares fell 3 per cent in a single day following news of the EU’s 1.84 billion euro fine on the company for restrictions on its App Store that disadvantaged music streaming rivals. The fine includes a deterrent lump sum that dwarves the basic penalty of 40 million euros. The European Commission said that the restrictions constituted unfair trading conditions, an unusual argument in an antitrust case. It said that the 1.8 billion euro penalty amounted to 0.5 per cent of Apple’s annual turnover. The company is appealing the decision, with a ruling by the General Court in Luxembourg not expected for several years.

The governments of the UK and Australia have signed a memorandum of understanding designed to improve cooperation in online safety and security. The agreement commits the countries to work together on issues including illegal content, child safety and age assurance. It also envisages coordinated regulatory engagement, shared research projects and work with industry.

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Barbados Minister of Industry, Innovation Science and Technology Marsha Caddie gave the keynote speech at the inaugural IIC Caribbean Chapter Meeting, held in Barbados on 4 March. The minister used the occasion to promise that the Barbadian public would be given a greater say on the country’s cybercrime bill. The event brought together policymakers from across the Caribbean with broadcasting, telecommunications, AI and data governance on the agenda.

The latest in a series of country reports from the Global Media and Internet Concentration Project have been published. The reports cover communications, media and internet concentration from 2019 to 2021 in France, Italy and South Korea. They can be downloaded at gmicp.org.

Italian competition regulator AGCM has fined TikTok a total of 10 million euros for failing to carry out adequate checks on content that could be harmful. The authority made reference to so-called ‘challenge’ videos that could put at risk minors or young people, in particular a practice known as the ‘French scar’ in which cheeks are pinched to leave a bruise on the cheekbone. AGCM said that the content is potentially dangerous and is spread through algorithms. Italy’s media regulator, AGCOM, recently forced TikTok to remove the videos. The fine comes as TikTok faces a ban in the United States under the terms of a new draft bill.

The European Parliament has voted in favour of the EU’s proposed new AI Act. Commissioner Thierry Breton said that ‘Europe is now a global standard-setter in trustworthy AI’. EU countries are expected to approve the legislation in May, with the Act coming into force in early 2025.