



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA WITH A SPECIAL
FOCUS ON CONFLICT SITUATIONS, INCLUDING PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS
AND REPORTING DURING ARMED CONFLICT
Vienna, 27-28 October 2016

Recommendations

- Participating States should redouble their efforts to fully implement their OSCE commitments and other international obligations related to freedom of expression and its corollary media freedom. We greatly appreciate the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and call on all participating States to issue open invitations to the Representative on Freedom of the Media and to engage constructively with her and her office.
- Participating States should work harder to fully implement their OSCE commitments and other international obligations in the field of safety of journalists, including with a view to end impunity of crimes committed against journalists. Allowing journalists, including media actors and citizen reporters to act independently and without undue interference, online and offline, does not only requires safeguards of editorial independence, but also effective investigation and prosecution when journalists are attacked. The specific risks faced by women journalists must be recognized in all efforts to promote safety of journalists.
- The role of state-driven propaganda and its impact on society and on security is very clear in our region. We call on all participating States to refrain from propaganda for wars of aggression or for any threat or use of force inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, as committed in the Helsinki Final Act. We maintain, as does the Representative on Freedom of the Media, that true media pluralism, which allows for a genuine public debate where all voices can be heard, is of paramount importance to peace and stability.
- Any restriction to freedom of expression, also in times of conflict, by a participating State must be fully in line with international commitments, and the application of this restriction should be subject to oversight by an independent judiciary.
- As we have seen throughout this meeting, freedom of expression is a highly topical issue in the OSCE today. We call on the current, as well as future Chairmanships, to ensure that freedom of expression and media freedom receive the attention they deserve within the OSCE, and welcome that the German Chairmanship have put forward Draft Decisions related to Freedom of Expression and Propaganda for war and hatred in view of the Hamburg Ministerial.