

**Romania's Intervention for the Working Session 1 delivered by Ambassador Cristian Istrate, Permanent Representative to the International Organisations in Vienna**

We fully subscribe to the Statement delivered on behalf of the EU, but we would like to make just a few remarks in our national capacity.

We would like to thank the Representative on Freedom of the Media and her team for the work done in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of the media. We reiterate our **full support for the mandate of the RFoM**, because, for Romania, freedom of expression and freedom of the media, online and offline, are necessary for an active, engaged and informed citizenry. As such, they constitute the essential foundation for democracy, rule of law, peace and stability.

**Romania is fully committed in implementing its commitments.** Moreover, we believe that we should also be ready to **adopt new commitments** to respond to emerging challenges, i.e. safety of journalists. We hope that participating states will agree on a Decision on this matter in Belgrade, which does not fall beyond international standards. We wish to see the OSCE commitments strengthened to reflect commitments adopted at the UN and other fora in recent years.

In the context of the discussion of today's Session, I would like to announce that **Romania will host in October, on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, an expert workshop on *Media Freedom and Responsibilities in the Context of Counter-Terrorism Policies***, organised together with the RFoM and the OSCE Trans-National Threats Department. We hope that the conclusions of the workshop will feed into the preparation of the Belgrade Ministerial Council.