



**Right to Reply
Delegation of Hungary**

**Working Session 1: Fundamental Freedoms I.
HDIM, 11. September 2017.
Warsaw**

As a starting point, let me emphasize that the Fundamental Law of Hungary stipulates that everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression. After the adoption of an effective, transparent and up to date new regulation in 2010, the new framework defines and protects editorial and journalistic freedom of expression.

After the aforementioned new framework entered into force, the Hungarian authorities engaged in constructive dialogue with all respective international actors, among others, the EU, the CoE, the Venice Commission and the OSCE. As a result of these negotiations, the Hungarian Government made amendments to the legislation in line with the recommendations of our partners.

About the case of Népszabadság: the publisher suspended the publication of the printed and online editions of the newspaper as a solely economic decision, following the accumulation of debt of 5 billion Forints or 17 million EUR. The Government of Hungary has no will, nor power to interfere with the business decisions of independent media publishers.

In response to the intervention of Human Rights Watch, I would like to point out that the Hungarian Government has nothing to do with independent media outlets' publishing articles on any topic or matter.