



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/1/13
6 March 2013

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/13
EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE
OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that the first term of office of the current Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, comes to an end on 10 March 2013,

Underlining the important contribution of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to the promotion of the freedom of expression and free media in the OSCE area,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of Ms. Dunja Mijatović as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media until 11 March 2016.

MC.DEC/1/13

6 March 2013

Attachment 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“While joining the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, for a second three-year term, we should like to make the following statement.

We take the position that the activities of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media should be carried out in strict accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity and transparency in line with the mandate established by Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997. We expect the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to take a balanced and impartial approach to the discharge of her commission with regard to the entire OSCE area. It is our conviction that the Representative’s task is to monitor that freedom of expression is ensured in the media, and this task does not extend to other areas of activity.

The Russian Federation assumes that the term “media” used in OSCE documents means “mass media”, which includes forms such as printed periodicals (press), television and radio broadcasting and electronic media, including those disseminated via the Internet. Other definitions of the media connected with a change in the ways of producing, sharing and disseminating mass information and the appearance of new types and means of communication require additional agreement and approval by all the participating States.

In the light of the above, the Russian Federation urges the OSCE participating States and the Chairmanship to begin work on updating the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, which was adopted more than 15 years ago, with a view to bringing it into line with the present-day realities and tasks in this area.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the Ministerial Council decision adopted and to the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.”

MC.DEC/1/13
6 March 2013
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

In connection with PC.DEC/1074, and under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, the United States wishes to make the following interpretive statement:

“The United States disagrees with the interpretive statement just made by the delegation of the Russian Federation. We wish to express our strongest support for the efforts of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to defend and promote freedom of expression through all media, including the Internet and other new technologies. This approach is absolutely consistent with the Helsinki Final Act, which calls upon participating States to ‘promote and encourage the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms,’ and with the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to ‘advocate and promote full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media.’ We reject any call to parse or restrict this broad mandate, or indeed any effort to qualify established OSCE Human Dimension commitments that protect and promote the fundamental freedoms of citizens and members of civil society groups throughout the region.”

I request that this interpretive statement be attached to the decision and included in the journal of the day.