



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

WORKING SESSION 12-13

STATEMENT

ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREE MEDIA AND INFORMATION

Warsaw, 6 October 2009

The Republic of Croatia supports and encourages the work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklós Haraszti as well as his leading role in protecting and improving basic freedoms of our democratic societies. In years to come Croatia is looking forward to a closer cooperation with Mr. Haraszti office and its staff.

Although efforts undertaken by the Croatia Government, within fight for media freedom, are recognized in the EU statement as a positive example we would like to emphasize that this example, quoted in the EU Statement, is isolated case and does not represent a trend.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia together with representatives of the civil society and the population strongly condemned attacks on journalists. Particular case was swiftly investigated and perpetrators indentified and captured.

For Croatia freedom of the media is one of the pillars of democracy and we are continuously promoting free and pluralistic media environment with a view to guarantee the freedom of the press. We deeply believe that the secure working environment for journalists is one of the preconditions for it.

Although is true that the violence against journalist my occur in any OSCE participating state we would like to emphasize that Croatia is determined to actively continue with fight, internally and externally, against any form of violence against journalists. We will continue our work on preserving and enhancing the freedom of the media and on securing working environment for all the journalists.