

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 16 - 27 September 2019**

EU Right of Reply – Working Session 5

Mr. Moderator,

In reply to the statement of the Russian Federation regarding the notion of journalist and the call for a narrow interpretation, as well as following interventions from civil society during this session, we want to reiterate our position, which was made very clear upon the adoption of the Ministerial Council Decision on Safety of Journalists 3/18 through an interpretative statement. Journalism is a function shared by a wide range of actors. We believe that protection of journalists should not be limited to those formally recognised as journalists, but should cover others, including community media workers and citizen journalists and others who may be using new media as a means of reaching their audiences, as stated in the *UN Action Plan on the Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity*.

With regard to women journalists, also in reply to the statement made by the Russian Federation, we would like to recall that we all, the participating States - in the Ministerial Council Decision 3/18 - recognize the distinct risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work, including through digital technologies, and we underline the importance to ensure their greatest possible safety. We also call for condemning - publicly and unequivocally - attacks on women journalists in relation to their work, such as sexual harassment, abuse, intimidation, threats and violence, including through digital technologies. In our view, gender-based attacks on women journalists do remain a pressing issue and we need to address it.

Thank you.