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Conference Services

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement in response to the statement by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatovic delivered to the 933rd Meeting of the Permanent Council on 29 November 2012 , is being distributed to all delegations.



DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE

Statement of the Ambassador Zoran Dabik in response to the Statement of the RFoM Dunja Mijatovic at the 933rd PC, 29.11.2012

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend a warm welcome to RFoM Mijatovic and to commend the great work she and her able team are doing to improve media freedom and freedom of expression in the OSCE area.

We welcome your Regular Report and we are thankful for your cooperation. We share a common goal and that is the establishment of a truly free environment for the media, as media appear to be one of the pillars of the modern democratic societies. The recent adoption of the Law on Decriminalization of Defamation on 12 November this year is a big step further in that direction. The news about the adoption of this legislation was positively received by many delegations in our organization, some branding us as a model country in this process in the OSCE area. We are grateful for the support and I can assure you Madam Mijatovic and our dear colleagues, that we are firm on the course to further improve media environment in the Republic of Macedonia.

As you are aware, in continuity, we conduct trainings for judges working on defamation cases to bring their attention on Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights. Likewise, until recently, we have selected 70 Article 10-related verdicts, translated the bulk of them into Macedonian language, and published them on the Ministry of Justice's website.

In addition, allow me to once again restate that the Government undertakes measures to ensure consistent implementation of the Broadcasting Law, with a special emphasis on Article 11, which regulates media ownerships. Namely, the Broadcasting Council determined a deadline (30 September), thus all broadcasters must ensuring compliance with the mentioned Article 11. This prompted transformation of ownership in several broadcasters, thus far. The latter reflect our willingness to act upon RFoM recommendations and to cooperate with her office in good faith.

Being thankful to you and your team Madam Mijatovic, I would like to reiterate our readiness to further our cooperation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman