



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Expert Meeting Series on Disinformation and Freedom of the Media
(organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM))

Fifth Meeting: Freedom Of Media In Elections And Counteracting Disinformation
(organized jointly with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR)
29 April 2022, 14:00-16:30 (CET). The event takes place online in Zoom.

The growth of legal and policy initiatives among the OSCE participating States, which aim to promote fairness in media reporting and prevent the spread of falsities during election campaigns, points to the existing concerns for and widespread threats to genuine and democratic conduct of elections. Comprehensive security in the region, at the same time, includes a strong freedom of expression component and depends on the independent and pluralistic media that enjoy trust of the public.

The roundtable will discuss reports on the practices of governments, election management bodies, international organizations, and civil society, including the media, on accuracy, impartiality and transparency of campaigning in the media, while preserving their freedom and plurality, safeguarding election rights of the candidates and providing voters with plurality of information allowing them to make an informed choice. The event will attempt to determine best practices and provide recommendations.

Opening Address: **Teresa Ribeiro**, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Moderators: **Ms. Bettina Ruigies**, Senior Adviser, OSCE RFOM, and **Mr. Vladimir Misev**, Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies, OSCE ODIHR.

Panel:

1. **Yves-Marie Doublet (France)**, Deputy Director of the financial department of the National Assembly, author: “Disinformation and electoral campaigns” (CoE, 2019).
2. **Brenda Santamaria (OAS)**, Chief of the Electoral Observation Section, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation at the Organization of American States (OAS).
3. **Mikheil Benidze (Georgia)**, Chief of Party, Georgia Information Integrity Program.
4. **Jelena Surculija Milojevic (Serbia)**, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Communication Studies, University of Belgrade.
5. **Giuseppe Milazzo (Italy)**, Research Associate and Senior Media Analyst of the Osservatorio di Pavia, a consultant of OSCE ODIHR on media and elections.