

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 807**  
**Vienna, 29 April 2010**

### **EU statement on media freedom in Ukraine**

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The EU welcomes the pledge made by President Yanukovich to uphold media pluralism and to protect journalists as a response to some worrying developments in the field of media freedom in Ukraine, also noted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in her press release dated 23 April 2010.

The EU remains supportive of the important achievements and reforms undertaken by Ukraine to ensure media pluralism and freedom. We urge the government to uphold the steps already taken and to continue the path of reform to bring Ukraine's legislation in line with OSCE and international commitments as regards respect for freedom of expression.

It is of utmost importance that journalists can carry out their work without fear of violence and intimidation. In this context we are concerned by recent instances of harassment of and violence against journalists in Ukraine. We find it encouraging that President Yanukovich and members of his administration have pledged to investigate old and new cases of violence against media workers.

The EU is also concerned by recent developments that could restrict media pluralism, including the decisions to dissolve the National Commission for the Reinforcement of Freedom of Speech and to change the legal status of the new head of the state television. Restricting opposition political leaders' access to air time, denying some journalists the right to take part in the coverage of official meetings, and proceeding to heavy redundancies in media regulatory bodies also raise some concern. The EU hopes to see the continuation of the long-standing practice to name a representative of the parliamentary opposition as the Head of the Parliament's Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information.

The EU welcomes the timely engagement by the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media and calls on her to continue following developments in cooperation with Ukraine's authorities.

The EU reiterates its commitment to deepen its relationship with Ukraine and its full support to the continued implementation of Ukraine's reform agenda.

Los países candidatos CROACIA\* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA\*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA y NORUEGA se suman a esta declaración.

\*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.