



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

## **OSCE Mediterranean Partner States Seminar On Media Self-Regulation**

**Venue: Hofburg, Neuer Saal, Vienna**

**Date: 19 June 2009**

### **Annotated AGENDA**

The seminar aims at introducing the *Media Self-Regulation Guidebook*, published by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in 2008, to the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States. It furthermore intends to discuss the relationship between media freedom and media responsibility with a special focus on the promotion of mutual respect and intercultural understanding. To this end, two panel discussions will give an insight of the best practices of media self-regulation in some of the OSCE participating States and help to share experiences between OSCE's member States and its Mediterranean Partners States.

Self-regulation, as the term suggests, is a joint endeavor by media professionals to voluntarily set up editorial guidelines and abide by them in a learning process open to the public. While fostering ethical standards and media quality, it helps to minimize State interference in the field of media regulation.

There have been attempts to increase the governmental role in regulating the media. As democracy is incompatible with the state custody of the media, self-regulation helps media professionals to guarantee their independence and therefore fulfill their role as a fourth estate. Governments should maintain a hands-off approach to self-regulation.

On the other hand, it is clear that the media do need certain guidelines and have to remain responsible for their messages. Thus, the function of self-regulatory systems is to control the media from within. Media responsibility and quality – values fostered by self-regulation – have proven to be most effective in countries with freedom of the media.

- 09.30-10.00**      **Arrival and registration of participants**
- 10.00-10.05**      **Welcome by *Roland Bless, Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media***
- 10.05-10.10**      **Address by *Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Head of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE & Chair of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group***
- 10.10-10.30**      **Opening Session: Media freedom as a prerequisite for self regulation**
- Miklós Haraszti, The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media*
- Presentation of the *Self-Regulation Guidebook*
  - Media self-regulation and its merits towards media freedom;
  - The reciprocity of self-regulation and media freedom: Media self-regulation as the most convincing and credible solution for quality journalism, for both media players and public authorities;
- 10.30-12.00**      **Session 1: Mechanisms of self-regulation guaranteeing respect for ethical guidelines and editorial independence: two case studies**
- Moderator:** Roland Bless, Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
1. Self-regulatory bodies  
*Manfred Protze, Chair of the German Presserat*
- “Press councils: Balancing rights and responsibilities”**
- *Responsibility in the context of reporting: the role of ethics guidelines*
  - *Establishing and running a press council, lessons learned from an old press council*
2. News ombudsmen  
*Yavuz Baydar, Turkish ombudsman for the Daily Sabah*
- “The Ombudsman: Media self-regulation within a media outlet”**
- *The value of an ombudsman for a media outlet;*
  - *The ombudsman’s duties and the challenge of independence*
- Discussion  
Concluding remarks by moderator
- 12.00-13.30**      **Lunch: Buffet in the premises of the Hofburg**

**13.30-15.00**

**Session 2: Experiences of media self-regulation in the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States**

**Moderator:** Miklós Haraszti, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**Speakers:** giving a review of the situation of self-regulation in the Mediterranean Partner States

- *Mr Abrous Outoudert, Director of Journal Liberté, Algeria*
- *Ms Rania Al Malky, Editor-in-Chief of Daily News Egypt / International Herald Tribune, Cairo, Egypt*
- *Mr Mohamed El Oifi, maitre de conference a Sciences Po, Specialist of the media in the Arab world, France*
- *Mr Younouss M'Jahed, Secretary General of the National Press Syndicate, Morocco*
- *Ms Mahasen Al Emam, Director of the Arab Woman Media Centre, Jordan*
- *Ms Justice Dalia Dorner, President of the Israel Press Council, Israel*

Topics to be raised:

- *What forms of self-regulation exist in the region?*
- *How do media professionals and the civil society benefit from it?*
- *What are the expectations when it comes to setting up a self-regulatory mechanism?*
- *What are the main challenges to self-regulation in the region?*

Discussion, including short presentations by the Mediterranean Partner States' participants  
OSCE experts also invited to reflect

Concluding remarks by moderator

**15.00-15.30**

**Coffee break**

**15.30-16.50**

**Session 3: Challenges, lessons learned and OSCE best practices when setting up or promoting self-regulatory mechanisms**

**Moderator:** Mr Roland Bless, Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**Speakers:**

- *Mr Boris Navasardian, Yerevan Press Club, Armenia*
- *Mr Ognian Zlatev, Media Council of Bulgaria*
- *Ms Veronique Maurus, Ombudswoman at Le Monde, France*
- *Mr Manfred Protze, Chair of the German Presserat*

Topics to be raised:

- *What are/were the main challenges for self-regulation in the respective countries?*
- *What are the solutions to overcome these challenges?*
- *How to guarantee the financial sustainability of self-regulatory mechanisms?*
- *How to guarantee the independence of a self-regulatory mechanism?*
- *How to convince media professionals of the benefits of self-regulation?*
- *How important is the co-operation with the public, publishers, governmental bodies, etc.?*

Discussion

Mediterranean Partners States' experts also invited to reflect

Concluding remarks by moderator

**16.50-17.00**

**Wrap up & closing remarks**

*Miklós Haraszti, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media*



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### LIST OF SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Title / Function</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	Outoudert	Abrous (Mr.)	Director of <i>Journal Liberté</i>	Algeria
2	Haouari	Fatma (Ms.)	Member of the Syndicat Nationale des Journalistes (SNJ), Journalist <i>Soir d'Algérie</i> ,	Algeria
3	Benzelikha	M.Ahmed (Mr.)	Inspecteur Général au Secrétariat d'État chargé de la Communication	Algeria
4	Navasardian	Boris (Mr.)	Chair of the Yerevan Press Club	Armenia
5	Zlatev	Ognian (Mr.)	Director of the Media Council of Bulgaria	Bulgaria
6	Al Malky	Rania (Ms.)	Editor-in-Chief of <i>Daily News Egypt/International Herald Tribune</i>	Egypt
7	Mohamed Ahmed	Makram (Mr.)	Chair of the Egyptian Syndicate of Journalists	Egypt
8	El Kouny	Tarek (Mr.)	Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Security and Strategic Organizations in Europe	Egypt
9	Maurus	Veronique (Ms.)	Ombudswoman at <i>Le Monde</i>	France
10	El Oifi	Mohammed (Mr.)	French Institute for International Relations, Media expert	France
11	Protze	Manfred (Mr.)	Chair of the German Press Council	Germany
12	Dorner	Dalia (Ms.)	Justice at the Israel Supreme Court, President of the Israel Press Council	Israel
13	Bachar	Arik (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Israel Press Council	Israel

14	Lancry	Yehuda (Mr.)	Head Directorate of Israel 2nd TV and Radio	Israel
15	Bismut	Boaz (Mr.)	Editor <i>Israel Today</i>	Israel
16	Al Emam	Mahasen (Ms.)	Director of the Arab Women Centre	Jordan
17	Momani	Jehad (Mr.)	Former Editor-in-chief of the Jordanian weekly <i>Shihan</i>	Jordan
18	Jreisat	Amal (Ms.)	Director of the Information and Communication Directorate at the Office of the Prime Minister	Jordan
19	Sakhariyanov	Kanat (Mr.)	First Deputy Director General of the <i>Khabar News Agency</i>	Kazakhstan
20	Bashimov	Marat (Mr.)	Editor-in-Chief of the <i>People and Law</i> newspaper	Kazakhstan
21	Chshegortsova	Anastasiya (Ms.)	Head of the Department on Analyzing and Strategic planning of the Ministry for Culture	Kazakhstan
22	Kalyanbekov	Bolat (Mr.)	Inspector of the Information Section of the Interior Policy Department of the President Administration	Kazakhstan
23	M'Jahed	Younouss (Mr.)	Secrétaire General du Syndicat National de la Presse Marocaine	Morocco
24	Alami Idrissi	Khalil (Mr.)	Inspecteur General du Ministère de la Communication	Morocco
25	Bensedrine	Sihem (Ms.)	Porte parole du Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie (CNLT)	Tunisia
26	Baydar	Yavuz (Mr.)	Ombudsman for the daily <i>Sabah</i>	Turkey