

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 797
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EU statement on the appointment of Ms Dunja Mijatović as the new OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

The European Union congratulates Ms Dunja Mijatović on her appointment as the new OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and welcomes her to the Permanent Council for the first time in her new role.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Greek and Kazakh Chairmanships for the exemplary and transparent way in which they handled the selection and appointment process. We would also like to pay tribute to all the candidates. That so many talented, able persons were nominated is a testament to the importance attached by the participating States to media freedom in general and the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in particular.

At the Lisbon Summit in 1996, Heads of State and Government recognised that freedom of the press and media were among the basic prerequisites for truly democratic and civil societies and

identified the need to strengthen the implementation of OSCE commitments in this area. This led to the establishment of the office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and Ms Mijatović follows in the footsteps of Miklós Haraszti and Freimut Duve who have held this office with distinction. We encourage Ms Mijatović to continue her predecessors' critical and constructive dialogue on media freedom with all participating States.

Today freedom of expression and media freedom are as important as ever. Many of the issues, including plurality of the media and violence against journalists, remain. However, we are also confronted by fresh challenges, in particular in the field of new media. We are firmly of the view that regulation here should not impinge upon the basic and fundamental right of freedom of expression.

We look forward to exploring these challenges, and opportunities, more thoroughly with Ms Mijatović in the framework of the Corfu Process and at the special day on Media Freedom proposed for this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. We would also be interested to hear Ms Mijatović's views on the priorities for her Office, perhaps at a meeting of the Human Dimension Committee.

In the week of International Women's' Day, the EU recalls its attachment to improving gender balance in the Organisation, particularly at senior management level. The appointment of a female Head of Institution is an especially auspicious and welcome development and a milestone for the cause of greater gender equality in the OSCE family.

In conclusion, the EU would like to offer Ms Mijatović its full support and we look forward to working with you to advance media freedom in the OSCE in the years ahead.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA, al igual que UCRANIA, la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIYÁN y GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

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