

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Vuk Zugic, Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Serbia to the OSCE at the
Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Session - Fundamental Freedom of the Media, Freedom of expression
Tuesday, 23 September 2014**

Moderator,

Due to the time constrain, I will mainly concentrate in my statement on a new national laws on public information and media, on electronic media and on public service broadcasting, recently adopted by Serbian National Assembly.

Let me mention some of the major changes introduced by these laws.

- The state shall no longer be the owner of media, with the sole exemption of the public service broadcasting
- Abolishing publicly funded enterprises in the field of information
- Introducing the co-financing of media projects as a form of state aid to the media
- Improving the quality of media content through the co-financing of media projects
- Introducing the Media Register to provide the transparency of the ownership in the field of media
- Providing the conditions for the competitive market, without monopoly, through the mechanism of protection of media pluralism
- Strengthening the position of the independent regulatory body for the electronic media
- Guaranteeing of programming, as well as institutional and financial independence of public service broadcasters

- Enabling the conditions for switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting
- Greater role of civil sector in the field of media
- Protection of journalists in exercising of their activities
- Prohibition of hate speech

Moderator,

We are convinced that these media laws are contributing to the strengthening of the freedom of the media and of the expression in the OSCE area.

We appreciate the readiness of the Representative on the Freedom of the Media to observe and assist us in implementing this set of laws on media. We are looking forward to working with the RfoM and your office.

Before concluding, let me reiterate our full respect for relevant international standards, undertaken OSCE commitments, thus guaranteeing full freedom of the media.

I would like to underline some concrete steps which our Government undertook in regard to protection of journalists, in particular the establishment of the State Commission tasked to elucidate unsolved cases of murdered journalists.

As far as the attack on the editor of Fonet News Agency in Belgrade, Mr. Pasalic is concerned, let me recall that our Government strongly condemned this attack. Minister of Interior Mr. Stefanovic ordered a swift investigation. Serbian government is fully committed to bringing perpetrators to justice.

Thank you Mr. Moderator.