

## ***DRAFT PRELIMINARY AGENDA***

### **Conference on Safety of Journalists in the OSCE Region**

**Vilnius, Lithuania  
7-8 June, 2011**

*Physical harm to journalists is the most severe form of interference with the profession. However, the spectrum applied against media professionals in the OSCE region is manifold. Unless law enforcement undergoes a major overhaul of the treatment of these cases of violence, true freedom of the press will remain jeopardized by journalists' fear of covering issues such as corruption and human rights violations.*

*In addition to physical attacks against journalists there are more established forms of impeding on media freedom, such as defamation and libel, taboo topics – like declaring certain events or personalities off limits for reporting – or outright framing of journalists with fabricated charges. The event should also address the importance of tackling, denouncing and systematically investigating cases of harassment, physical attacks, and even murders against media workers*

*Therefore Chairperson-in-Office, Representative on Freedom of the Media, Troika and Ukraine invites representatives of the Governments, law enforcement authorities, media, legislators and NGO's from the 56 OSCE participating States to examine and review the current situation on the safety of journalists, to share problems and best practices, to consider the principal necessities to reform related legislation, law enforcement practices, and judicial instruments and to start formulation of recommendations how to improve the security of journalists in the OSCE area.*

#### **MONDAY, 6 JUNE, 2011**

**16:00 Opening of the exhibition “World Press Photo“, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania and the Embassy of Netherlands in Lithuania (Lukiškės square).**

#### **DAY 1, TUESDAY, 7 JUNE 2011**

**8.00 – 8.30 Registration of participants**

**8.30 – 9.30 Opening Session**

Moderator:

- Mr. Audronius Ažubalis, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

Opening remarks:

- Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė President of the Republic of Lithuania (TBC)
- Mr. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine
- Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General
- Mr. Petros Efthymiou, President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

**9.15 – 10.15**

Keynote speakers:

- Ms. Dunja Mijatović OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Prof., Dr. Mikhail Fedotov, Chairman, Council of the President of the Russian Federation on Development of Civil Society and Human Rights
- Mr. Seamus Martin, retired international editor of The Irish Times

**10.15 – 10.30 Coffee break**

**10.15 - 10.30 Press Conference with Mr. Audronius Ažubalis, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Ms. Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (“Lambda” hall).**

**10.30-13.00 – 1<sup>st</sup> Session. Role of governments in ensuring safety of journalists.**

*Safe working conditions for journalists have been at the forefront of OSCE commitments since 1975. The Helsinki Final Act set out to “improve the conditions under which journalists from one participating State exercise their profession in another participating State”, while the Vienna Follow-Up meeting in 1986 stated that participating States “will make further efforts to facilitate the freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds, to encourage co-operation in the field of information and to improve the working conditions of journalists.” Six years later, in 1994, the Budapest CSCE Summit stated that participating States “condemn all attacks on and harassment of journalists and will endeavour to hold those directly responsible for such attacks and harassment accountable.”*

*Finally, in 1997, when the office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media was established, participating States gave the RFOM a mandate to “address serious problems caused by, inter alia, obstruction of media activities and unfavourable working conditions for journalists”.*

*The session will stress the necessity for authorities to vocally refute any attempt to harm journalists, and to call for swift, transparent, and thorough investigations in case violent actions occur.*

*The session will also discuss how authorities, law enforcement and legislators can protect the safety of journalists and thus contribute to greater media freedom and freedom of expression.*

- **Legislative requirements** including constitutional guarantees for media freedom and the creation of media laws respectful of this parameter, with special attention to public service broadcasting statutes, provisions on protection of sources and on decriminalizing libel and defamation.
- **Law enforcement practices** to respect the legal rights of media workers, in order to help ensure their safe working conditions.
- **Judicial instruments** to equip the judiciary with the necessary tools to swiftly investigate media freedom violations, including violence and coercive actions against journalists.
- **Judicial practices** to weigh public interest in all court cases initiated against journalists.

Moderator:

- Ms. Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Speakers:

- Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human rights

- Mr. Thomas Melia, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, US Department of State
- Mr. Janis Karklins, UNESCO Assistant director-General for Communication and Information
- Prof. Michael O’Flaherty, Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, Rapporteur on the General Comment on Article 19 (freedom of expression)
- Mr. Giorgi Kandelaki, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Parliament of Georgia

### 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

### 14.30-17.00 – 2nd Session. Contributions from civil society, including journalists and media NGOs.

*The session will raise awareness to the role played by the media in ensuring public debate in issues of public interest, and will draw attention to the need for political support to provide safe, unimpeded and unhindered conditions for journalists to perform their duties. By presenting case studies, the session will focus on the main inhibiting problems that journalists face in their everyday work in the OSCE region, and possible ways to remedy them.*

*The session will also discuss good examples of self-regulation mechanisms and initiatives launched by media workers to clearly identify themselves during their work, which can also contribute to their safe and unhindered performance of their journalistic duties and responsibilities.*

#### Moderator:

- Dr. Agnes Callamard, Executive Director of Article 19

#### Speakers:

- Ms. Rubina Moehring, President, Reporters without borders Austria
- Mr. William Horsley, Chairman of the Association of European Journalists
- Mr. David J. Kramer, Executive Director of Freedom House
- Dr. Abaceen Nasimi, Journalist from Afghanistan
- Ms. Nadezhda Azhgikhina, Executive secretary, Russian Union of Journalists
- Mr. Veran Matic, Chief Executive officer of B92
- Mr. Aernout van Lynden, Journalist, war correspondent

**17.30-19.30 Side event. Media freedom lecture about the protection of journalists from violence, organized by Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, and Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (“Lambda” hall).**

#### Moderator:

- Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

#### Speaker:

- Ms. Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**20.00-22.00 Reception hosted by Audronius Ažubalis, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (“Skybar”, Radisson BLU Hotel Lietuva).**

**DAY 2, WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2011****9.00-11.30 – 3rd Session. Best practices in legislation, law enforcement practices and judicial instruments to ensure safety of journalists.**

*As a follow-up to the first day's sessions, this session will highlight the existing good practices in the OSCE both in the field of laws, as well as even handed, unbiased law enforcement and court practices.*

*The session will also discuss the danger of failing to prosecute those responsible for attacks against journalists. It will show how violence against journalists is not crime as usual, because it attacks the institution of free media itself. These cases, if unpunished, can breed further violence, and they can impose a chilling effect on investigative journalism as well as on the activities of civil society and NGO's in the public sphere.*

*The session will present practical proposals to develop the safety of media workers in their everyday work, and will discuss the requirements for quick action in case of violent incidents.*

**Moderator:**

- Mr. Dainius Radzevičius, Chairman, Lithuanian Union of Journalists

**Speakers:**

- Mr. Knut Dreyer, Senior Police Adviser, Head of the Strategic Police Matters Unit, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE "Good Law Enforcement practices in the safety of journalists"
- Ms. Liudvika Meškauskaitė, Lawyer, author of "Media Law" in Lithuania
- Mr. Emin Huseynov, Chair of the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety
- Mr. Roland Bless, Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE, introducing practical good examples in the OSCE (vests, badges, other visibility tools)
- Mr. Oliver Money-Kyrle, Assistant General Secretary, International Federation of Journalists
- Ms. Nina Ognianova, Committee to Protect Journalists, Europe and Central Asia Program Coordinator

**11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break****12.00-13.00 - Closing remarks and key recommendations from the sessions****13.00-14.00 Lunch****Departure**