



## STATEMENT BY TURKEY

### 2013 OSCE Human Dimension Seminar, Working Group II

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*(National frameworks for media freedom - best practices)*

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

In connection with the issue of access to information, which has been mentioned often this afternoon, we would like to briefly share a practice from Turkey with you.

Turkey adopted the Law of Obtaining Information in 2003. According to this law, every state institution has to provide information within 30 days of receiving a request. There are certain limitations as to the content and type of the information which can be provided. The limitations involve information relating to ongoing judicial investigations, intelligence information, state secrets, information pertaining to private life, and commercial secrets. Aside from these cases, state institutions are obliged to provide all information requested by citizens, who can apply either in writing or via the internet. Furthermore, In order to facilitate information requests, the relevant law has made it compulsory to establish a special interface in state institutions' internet sites for the applications.

In case of a refusal to provide information, the applicant can appeal to an independent body which was established for this purpose. This body consists of 9 members, most of whom are judges from the high courts and the Ministry of Justice.

Thank you.