



**PORTUGAL 2007**  
Portugal 2007- Presidency of the European Union



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL  
TO THE OSCE

HDIM.DEL/425/07  
04 October 2007

## OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2007

### Working Session 16 - 4th October, Warsaw

### Freedom of Expression, free media and information

#### Recommendations from the European Union

Participating States should

- ensure that media laws are in line with international standards and OSCE commitments and are implemented subsequently,
- strengthen their commitment to ensure freedom of opinion and expression, and especially to decriminalize libel and defamation.
- ensure that journalists in the OSCE area can work safely and without being threatened by physical violence, persecution, detention, harassment, intimidation, direct or indirect economic pressure or any other form of interference,
- ensure that these commitments equally apply to journalists who are also Human Rights Defenders,
- ensure that press freedom is guaranteed by an independent judiciary to which journalists can appeal in cases of alleged violations,
- ensure the right of journalists to keep their sources of information confidential by enacting appropriate legislation ("shield laws").

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media should

- continue to assist participating states in achieving full implementation of the OSCE commitments,

- continue efforts to promote adoption of legislation which is in line with OSCE and other international standards notably in the field of defamation,
- continue to elaborate how comprehensive and non-discriminatory access to information in particular to the internet can be ensured,
- continue to strengthen freedom of the media through capacity building in the framework of training activities and media conferences,
- in co-ordination with the ODIHR's Point of Contact on Human Rights Defenders, assist the participating states in delivering on their commitments to protect the journalists who are also Human Rights Defenders.