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**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement**

**in response to the Report of Ms. Dunja Mijatović, the Representative on the  
Freedom of Media  
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 974th Meeting of the OSCE  
Permanent Council**

**November 28, 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome Ms. Dunja Mijatović, the Representative on the Freedom of Media and express our sincere gratitude for her coherent and informative report.

We congratulate Ms. Mijatović and her able team on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of this institution. We would like also to commend Ms. Mijatović and pay tribute to her predecessors for their efforts and dedication in promoting freedom of expression and media and in assisting the OSCE participating States to implement their commitments.

Armenia reiterates its support to the Representative on the Freedom of Media and her activities.

We took positive note of the assessments of the Representative on the Freedom of Media in Armenia and we would like to stress our readiness to continue close and constructive cooperation with the Office in making our progress in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of media irreversible. We are glad to note that your assessment on the progress made by Armenia in ensuring freedom of expression is widely shared by other important stakeholders.

We would like to take this opportunity and express our appreciation to Ms. Mijatović for her participation in the Council of Europe High Level Conference “Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Europe” held in Yerevan in October. We believe that freedom of expression is not a constrain but essential tool to fight racism and xenophobia. The discourse of peace, mutual tolerance and reconciliation can take place only in the societies empowered by freedom of expression. We hope that the Office will make further contribution in assisting

participating states to address the issues of hate speech and incitement to hate crimes in the open and democratic framework of respecting freedom of expression.

In the same vein, we highly value continued attention of the Representative on the Freedom of Media to our region. The 10th Caucasus Media Conference which took place earlier this month has been a good occasion to take stock of media development in our region and envisage new steps which will unite all those who see the future of our region in peace and democratic development.

Thank You.