

Closing Remarks by
Miklós Haraszti
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
at the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on:
Freedom of the Media
Protection of Journalists and Access to Information
Vienna, 14 July 2006



Ladies and gentlemen,

We have spent the last two days discussing three major media freedom issues: access to information, the relation between freedom of expression and the promotion of mutual respect and understanding, and administrative hindrances to the well-functioning of the media. I believe we have had a very educative meeting.

The session moderators have already given a summary of the three working sessions, so I will not go into that again and keep this closing statement brief.

I would like to thank our wonderful speakers for their willingness to participate in this conference. Their speeches have given us all something to think about, and to continue building towards freedom of expression.

Thanks to all our participants, NGOs and Delegations, who allowed for a lively debate, and gave us insight in the reality of freedom of expression in the OSCE region.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Belgian Chairmanship, in the name of freedom of the media, for offering this splendid possibility to discuss media freedom issues, and also for their cooperation in organizing this event.

The assistance and expertise given to us by the ODIHR staff has been excellent. Thank you for this, Ambassador Strohal, and the same thanks go to your office. It is due to their experience that this meeting went so smoothly.

I also would like to express my appreciation for the work done by the interpreters and the people at conference services.

And finally, I would like to thank my staff for all the hard work they have put into this conference, and making it a success. Special thanks to Ms. Valerie Crab and Mr. Arnaud Amouroux who were responsible for the meeting and the special panel, respectively.

As usual, a written report will be available in a few weeks time on the proceedings of this meeting. I look forward to the follow-up. I now pass the floor to Ambassador de Crombrughe who will also close this meeting.