



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Tirana 2020**

MC.DEC/4/20
4 December 2020

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting
MC(27) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 4/20
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Reaffirming the necessity that the Representative on Freedom of the Media carries out her functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Decides to appoint Ms. Teresa Ribeiro as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of three years with effect from 4 December 2020.

MC.DEC/4/20
4 December 2020
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“In connection with the adoption of the decision on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Maria Teresa Ribeiro. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in the exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States underscores that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted the OSCE’s principles, commitments and decisions and it is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/4/20
4 December 2020
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus on the decision of the OSCE Foreign Ministers to appoint Ms. Maria Teresa Ribeiro as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, we should like to state the following.

We are pleased that, for the first time in the history of the Organization, the participating States have adopted decisions that lead to a more balanced geographical representation in the leadership of the OSCE executive structures. This is fully in line with the fundamental principles of our Organization’s work and its procedural norms establishing the equality of all participating States and their equal opportunity to be involved in the leadership of the Secretariat, its departments and the institutions. We see this as a first step towards achieving a fair geographical balance in the staffing structure of the Organization.

We expect the new Representative on Freedom of the Media to be guided by the protection of the interests of the entire professional media community in the OSCE area in a balanced and impartial manner, in accordance with the existing mandate.

We call on Ms. Ribeiro to promote press freedom and pluralism, to respond equally to infringements on press freedom in all OSCE participating States, to make special efforts to ensure safe working conditions for journalists, and to pay due attention to combating censorship, including on the Internet. It is our understanding that the Representative’s focus will remain on the current topic of access to information, especially in the light of the systematic attempts to limit this access under the pretext of combating propaganda. We expect her to establish the necessary contacts with the media and professional associations of journalists.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision and included in the journal of the day of the Ministerial Council meeting.”