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

Statement

**Response to the Representative on the Freedom of Media Ms. Dunya Miyatovic
delivered by the Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1121th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council**

December 01, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank Ms. Dunya Miyatovic for her comprehensive report which in open and transparent manner reveals the content and the level of engagement of her mandate with participating states.

The report clearly indicates that ensuring safety of journalists remains a challenge throughout the OSCE area. It should be added that this challenge is certainly not identical elsewhere both in sense of the scope of outstanding issues and response of the authorities.

I do not intend to present our own version of issues raised by the RFOM and response of the Armenian authorities particularly in the realm of ensuring safety of journalists since this was already done in the report in a professional manner. I would simply add that majority of reported incidents in Armenia related to one isolated case which occurred in the framework of a standoff between police and an armed group at the end of July. We would like to inform that charges were brought against 8 persons who obstructed the work of the journalists of Radio Liberty Free Europe, Armenia TV and News.am website.

Armenian authorities will further protect freedom of expression and journalists by effectively addressing all incidents. In this context we will continue to rely on the expertise of the RFOM.

Reply to Azerbaijan

Mr. Chairman,

We are aware of the attempts of Azerbaijan to export its “traditions” of censorship to Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. We would like to state in this regard that according to reports of human rights organizations, including Freedom House, NK holds much higher ranks in the sphere of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and freedom of media. We invite the Delegation of Azerbaijan to make use of best practices in NK to improve its profile in implementation of its OSCE commitments.

Thank You.