



Right to Reply Delegation of Hungary

Working Session 3. Freedom of the Media HDIM, 11. September 2018. Warsaw

In reply to the distinguished delegation of the United States of America I wish to underline, that the Hungarian Government is committed to promote and protect the freedom and pluralism of media, as well as to grant equal access to media contents for everyone. The Fundamental Law stipulates that everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression and that Hungary recognizes and protects the freedom and diversity of the press.

The radical changes in information technology the digitalization called for a revision of Hungarian media regulations dating back to 1995 and the adoption of an effective, transparent, and up to date new regulation became inevitable by 2010. After the new framework entered into force, we engaged in constructive dialogue with international actors, among others the CoE and OSCE. These negotiations resulted in concrete amendments to the media acts. This so called 'Media Constitution' defines and protects the editorial and journalistic freedom, namely that any person employed by media content providers shall have the right to professional sovereignty and independence from the owners or sponsors of the provider.

The Hungarian Government further advocates a balanced and diverse media market thus enforcing plurality in the media landscape. This requirement is also anchored at the constitutional level. The media Act of 2010 contains provisions aiming at preventing market concentration and regulates media service providers with significant powers of influence.