

Right of reply by Romania

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 2: Freedom of the Media (specifically selected topic)

Madame Moderator,

Romania exercises the right of reply with regards to the intervention of the distinguished US representative, delivered during the Working Session 2, Freedom of the Media at HDIM, 2018.

The Romanian Government considers violence against national and international journalists unacceptable and unjustifiable.

Romania is a functional democracy and the Government has no intention to limit or impede in any way the freedom of the media. As a democratic society, we cherish it and we have been long considered it a part of our untouchable and inviolable national values. Independent journalism products in Romania have multiplied and are enjoying a growing interest from the public. We remain committed to uphold the European values, including the freedom of the press.

The Romanian legislation, in full compliance with all European standards and international commitments, ensure protection of all fundamental rights and freedoms, including the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press. As a member of the European Union, Romania has an independent justice system that can guarantee that national legislation is enforced and any abuse, including by employees of public institutions, is punished.

The Romanian prosecutors are already conducting an independent investigation concerning the recent events and the Romanian authorities are looking into this situation with utmost seriousness and in strict accordance with the law and our democratic values.

Thank you, Madame Moderator