



# 12<sup>TH</sup> SOUTH CAUCASUS MEDIA CONFERENCE

## *Digitalisation for Freedom of the Media*

29-30 September 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

Venue: [Tbilisi Marriott Hotel](#) (Rustaveli Avenue 13)

### **AGENDA**

#### **Day 1: Tuesday, 29 September**

**09.30 – 10.00**

**REGISTRATION**

**10.00 – 10.30**

**OPENING SESSION**

Moderator: Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)

**Welcoming remarks**

- Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Khatuna Totladze, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia

**10.30 – 11.45**

**SESSION I: Role of Regulatory Authorities in a Digital Environment**

Moderator: Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser to the RFoM

*This session will focus on the following issues:*

- *What is the role of the national media regulators in the new digital media environment?*
- *How to guarantee the independence of licensing authorities?*
- *What are the most important elements of the licensing process of digital terrestrial broadcasters?*
- *Which principles should guide regulation of broadcasting online, stream TV and on-demand audiovisual services?*
- *How can media regulators improve transparency and better serve the public interest?*
- *How can co-operation between media regulators and the OSCE RFoM be improved?*

- Tanja Kerševan Smokvina, Principal Advisor for Electronic Media, Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia
- Helena Mandić, Director of Broadcasting, Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Questions and Answers

11.45 – 12.15

**GROUP PHOTO and COFFEE BREAK**

12.15 – 13.15

**SESSION I (cont'd): Role of Regulatory Authorities in a Digital Environment**

Moderator: Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser to the RFoM

- Zhirayr Dadasyan, Deputy Chairman, National Commission on Television and Radio of Armenia
- Fazil Novruzov, Senior Consultant, Legal and International Relations Department, National Television and Radio Council of Azerbaijan
- Ivane Makharadze, Head of Broadcasting Regulation Department, Georgian National Communications Commission
- Discussion

13.15 – 14.15

**LUNCH**

14.15 – 15.45

**SESSION II: Latest media freedom developments in the South Caucasus**

Moderator: Aidar Botagarov, Adviser to the RFoM

*Reports and discussion on media freedom developments since the 2014 South Caucasus Media Conference, including current case law, legislative initiatives and framework, safety of journalists, media transparency, professional standards, and other pertinent issues and challenges to media freedom.*

**Armenia**

- Arsen Babayan, Head of Public Relations and Information Department, National Assembly, Republic of Armenia
- Nouneh Sarkissian, Executive Director, Media Initiatives Center
- Discussion

**Azerbaijan**

- Kamran Hasanov, Senior adviser, Public and Political Affairs Department, Administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Mehman Aliyev, Director, *Turan* news agency
- Discussion

15.45 – 16.15

**COFFEE BREAK**

16.15 – 17.00

**SESSION II (cont'd): Latest media freedom developments in the South Caucasus**

Moderator: Aidar Botagarov, Adviser to the RFoM

**Georgia**

- Gedevan Popkhadze, First Deputy Chairman, Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia
- Maia Mikashavidze, Professor, Caucasus School of Journalism and Media Management, Georgian Institute for Public Affairs
- Discussion

18.00

**RECEPTION**

Hosted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**9.30 – 10.45**

**SESSION III: Pluralism in a Digital Environment**

Moderator: Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser to the RFoM

*This session will focus on the following issues:*

- *What is the impact of digital terrestrial switchover on media pluralism?*
- *What is the new role of public service media in a convergent media environment?*
- *What is the relationship between traditional media and open journalism?*
- *Is hate speech more dangerous because of new media and how can we counteract propaganda for war and hatred?*
- *What is the influence of new communication technologies on copyright?*
- *How does the new media environment affect self-regulation?*

- Bettina Ruigies, Regional Coordinator Europe & Central Asia, Deputy Team Leader Asia & Europe, Deutsche Welle Akademie
- Christian Nissen, Adjunct Professor, Copenhagen Business School
- Questions and Answers

**10.45 – 11.15**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**11.15 – 12.15**

**SESSION III (cont'd): Pluralism in a Digital Environment**

Moderator: Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser to the RFoM

- Ashot Melikyan, Chairman, Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression
- Alesker Mammedli, Media Expert
- Ucha Seturi, Expert in Media and Telecommunications Law, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
- Discussion

**12.15 – 13.30**

**CLOSING SESSION**

Moderator: Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser to the RFoM

- Discussion on the draft declaration from the conference
- Evaluation of the conference

**Closing remarks**

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dunja Mijatović

**13.30 – 14.30**

**LUNCH**