

STATEMENT

**By the Delegation of Montenegro at 688th Meeting of the Permanent Council
Delivered by ambassador Vesko Garcevic
Vienna, November, 15th, 2007**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has aligned itself with the EU statement, but I would like to make brief comments in my national capacity on something that we consider as important for Mr. Haraszti as for Montenegro itself.

We would like to join others and warmly welcome Mr. Haraszti at today's Permanent Council meeting and thank him for his informative and balanced written report and oral presentation.

We have taken careful note of the Report by Representative on freedom of the Media Mr. Miklos Haraszti and his comments about two recent attacks on journalists in Montenegro. We note with satisfaction that report correctly assessed that first of these cases was nearly solved with arrests of suspects who are waiting for proceedings before the court. At the same time, we would like to point out that the investigation about the second case is in state of progress and is being dealt with in responsible manner by the relevant authorities.

Mr. Chairman,

Montenegro remains fully committed to further advancing its efforts in area of media freedoms, in line with the EU, CoE and OSCE norms and standards. Besides legislative reform worked out, among others, in close cooperation with the OSCE, I would like to highlight that almost all printed and electronic media in Montenegro are privatised. At the same time, our biggest broadcaster - TV Montenegro has been undergoing a structural transformation from state owned enterprise to genuine public broadcaster. Since we share Mr. Haraszti's view that vibrant and pluralistic media scene which reflects positions of various political and social groups is healthy for functional democratic society, the above mentioned actions in the media sector we see as a part of our broader reform efforts. Many achievements so far prove that Montenegro is taking these tasks seriously.

Finally, we appreciate the support received so far by the Office of the OSCE Representative on freedom of the Media, and we stand ready to continue the successful cooperation with Mr. Haraszti and his team and we wish them all the best in their future work.

Thank you.