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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**956th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**  
**June 14, 2013**

*in response to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media*

We join others in welcoming Ms Dunja Mijatovic at the Permanent Council. Ms Mijatovic, we appreciate your six-month report that covers broad range of countries, including Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Denmark, Slovenia, United Kingdom and the United States. We support your efforts to address the problems existing in these countries. Your objective report proves that no country in the OSCE area is immune of media related problems and we encourage you to continue presenting such balanced reports to the PC.

In view of specific issues mentioned in the report, I would like to note that information on most of the cases has already been provided. Meanwhile, the details upon others will be brought to your attention soon.

I would also like to add some words on the issue of defamation. Azerbaijan is a young democracy trying to overcome security challenges on the periphery of OSCE region. There is a wide range of opinions on this particular subject and there are ongoing discussions within different layers of our society. But the most important factor in this regard, is the commitment of the Government and it is there. A reasonable compromise applicable to Azerbaijan is something that should be found. The Draft law on defamation is elaborated, among others, with the assistance of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE Office in Baku and has been presented to the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and now is under consideration.

Azerbaijan was mentioned in the statements made by the Delegations of United States of America and European Union. I wish to share comments made by the distinguished Ambassador of Russian Federation related to the statement of the US Delegation and I would also like to attribute comments of the distinguished Ambassador of Russian Federation to the statement made by Ireland on behalf of EU. Against the background of deteriorating media situation in EU countries, problems existing in EU are overlooked

and EU prefers not to mention them. Our Delegation considers statements by EU and USA as demonstration of double standards.

Thank you.