



Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw 2015
Statement by Germany
Working Session 1: Fundamental Freedoms I, including freedom of
expression, free media and information
21 September 2015

The EU representative also spoke in our name. Nevertheless, I would like to reiterate two points: our strong support for the office and work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and that Germany will also focus on freedom of the media and expression during its chairmanship in 2016.

During the early years of the Federal Republic of Germany, free and critical media played an important role in consolidating democracy and fostering positive and stable development. On more than one occasion, international and national institutions – in particular, but not only, the Federal Constitutional Court – ensured that the media were protected from state intervention and strengthened in their freedom and independence.

It was therefore a matter of course for us to take the letter mentioned by Ms Mijatović seriously. Foreign Minister Steinmeier answered the letter on 18 August. He wrote that the Federal Public Prosecutor General had closed the investigation against the netzpolitik.org journalists.

As the Representative on Freedom of the Media noted, there is no country where freedom of the media is not potentially under threat. This makes strong institutions all the more important. Germany therefore supports the mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, which includes observing freedom of the media and expression, as well as national legal developments and individual cases in OSCE participating States. In particular, Germany welcomes the professional and impartial way in which Dunja Mijatović exercises the duties of her office.