



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Representative on Freedom of the Media
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“Guaranteeing Media Freedom on the Internet” –
Conference in Amsterdam, City Hall, Amstel 1, Raadzaal
27 and 28 August 2004

Background Paper

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM) is implementing the project “Guaranteeing Media Freedom on the Internet” in 2004 – 2006. This project is a follow-up to the 2003 Amsterdam Internet Conference where the [*Amsterdam Recommendations*](#) were issued.

The new project was initiated with a Seminar in Vienna on 30 June 2004 where delegations from OSCE participating States as well as outside experts exchanged their views on current problems regarding media freedom on the Internet and suggested several tasks for RFoM to pursue during the further implementation of the project.

As a next step, the 2nd Amsterdam Internet Conference “Guaranteeing Media Freedom on the Internet” will be held on 27 and 28 August 2004¹. More than 20 international experts from IGOs, NGOs, academia, media and industry will lecture. A “Freedom of the Media – Internet Cookbook” with best practices and benchmarks for Internet legislation, regulation and education will be produced.

This draft “Cookbook” will be further developed during the next months and published by the Representative on Freedom of the Media at the end of this year. Also, a further research on Internet legislation in the OSCE region is planned, including the use of hate speech laws and the possible misuse of these laws to suppress dissenting voices.

More information on this project and how to register for the Amsterdam Conference can be obtained from Christiane Hardy, Senior Adviser, and Christian Möller, Project Officer, from the Office of the Representative and from the website www.osce.org/fom/.

¹ NB: This is the Amsterdam Internet Conference that was originally announced for 10/11 September. Due to technical reasons the date was changed to 27/28 August.
