

WS 1

Delegation of Azerbaijan

As delivered by Gulsel Safarova

In reply to delegation of EU and USA

It is wrong to express concern about the freedom of the press in Azerbaijan, to talk about the closure of media outlets which completely contradicts the existing reality. Some sites are spreading out information using internet new domain and social media. There is no restriction. The re-circulation of information has been restricted by the court for violating 3rd Chapter of Internet information resources law, article 13.

Azerbaijan is a legal, democratic country and a country, where the rule of law is ensured. Anyone, regardless of his position and social status, or anyone who violates laws, journalism ethics and norms, who has committed an illegal act under the guise of a representative of the media should be responsible for this. This is a matter of principle for the Azerbaijani state and society. Intolerance is demonstrated against journalists in developed Western countries, their activities are limited, they are detained, and the right of people to express their opinions freely is suppressed by the most stringent methods. However, unfortunately, such cases do not attract attention of both international media organizations and USA. Taking into account all this, I view should be more balanced and objective in their position and do not show a biased approach towards Azerbaijan.