

STATEMENT

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN DIALOGUE OF JOURNALIST ASSOCIATIONS

We, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Executive Director of the International Press Institute, deputy General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists, President of Reporters without Borders, Austria, acknowledge the efforts over the past two years of the participants of the Russian-Ukrainian dialogue of journalist associations and its contribution to solving problems, such as safety of journalists in the conflict zone.

We, the undersigned, appeal to the senior representatives from the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine, National Union of the Journalists of Ukraine, and the Russian Union of Journalists to continue the current dialogue between the professional associations under the auspices of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media based on the following principles:

The parties in the dialogue are public associations that share international professional standards and principles on freedom of the media; in this regard they are not and have never been parties in the conflict in and around Ukraine.

The parties in the dialogue sincerely believe in its value to protect the safety of the journalists covering the conflict, to diminish the level of hate speech and propaganda for war in the media of their countries.

The parties in the dialogue are legitimate participants of international professional associations and as such mutually respect each other, in this regard they will refrain from aggressive rhetoric against each other.

The parties in the dialogue are self-governed and as such will refrain from involving governmental agencies in their professional activity and disputes.

These are the principles which should guide us all in facilitating the dialogue of the journalist associations for the future of the profession in the region.

Signed:

Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Barbara Trionfi, Executive Director of the International Press Institute,

Jeremy Dear, deputy General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists,

Rubina Moehring, President of Reporters without Borders, Austria

Vienna, 30 May 2016