

OSCE

With 56 States, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization, bringing comprehensive and co-operative security to a region that stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is strengthening the implementation of principles and OSCE commitments to freedom of expression and free media.

The Office's main task is to address serious non-compliance with OSCE principles and commitments in respect of freedom of expression and free media. Interventions can take various forms, ranging from behind-the-scenes "silent diplomacy" and contacts with the participating States' foreign ministers to raising public awareness through public statements. The Office also provides, *inter alia*, legal analyses of media laws and works to make the environment in the OSCE participating States safer for journalists. The Office is the world's only inter-governmental institution designed to promote media freedom.

www.osce.org/fom

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an international political organisation, which brings together over 800 million citizens from 47 countries, making up almost an entire democratic continent. In its work based on intergovernmental cooperation, the Council of Europe seeks to promote democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Its permanent headquarters are in Strasbourg, France.

In 2010 the Council of Europe is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects human rights and freedoms. The European Court of Human Rights rules on individual or state applications alleging violations of rights and freedoms protected by the Convention. It has already delivered judgments in cases where the Internet played a central role and which are binding for the defending State.

www.coe.int/internet

IGF 2010 - DEVELOPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Balancing the Regulation of Hate Speech and Freedom of Expression

Open forum

Organized by the OSCE/Freedom of the Media
in co-operation with the Council of Europe

Wednesday, 15 September
11.30 - 13.30, Room 1



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

During this two-hour event organized by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in cooperation with the Council of Europe, the discussion will focus on how to tackle racist and discriminatory content on the Internet without restricting freedom of expression by limiting legitimate speech and criticism. The audience will be invited to hear and challenge responses from governments, supranational and international organizations, as well as the private sector.

The advancement of digital communication technologies has added a new dimension to this issue by providing individuals and organizations with modern and powerful means to propagate racism and xenophobia. Dunja Mijatović, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, will point out challenges and raise questions to be debated by seven key participants: renowned media experts representing academia, international bodies, private sector, and government institutions dealing with Internet policies.

The audience will have an opportunity to actively participate in the discussion by sharing their experience, challenges, observations and best practices in response to brief presentations by the key participants. The presenters will provoke discussions on the specifics of the meaning of hate speech, particularly in relation to freedom of expression, the specificities of “online” and “offline” hate, effectiveness of regulation, self-regulation and co-regulation, and the role of the governments, users and the Internet community in general.

Remote participants who will participate in the live-streamed event on the Internet will also be able to ask questions and contribute to the discussion.

The discussion will be facilitated by:

- Ženet Mujić, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Lee Hibbard, Internet Governance and Information Society, Council of Europe
- Yaman Akdeniz, Faculty of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University
- Adilia Daminova, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Key participants are:

- Mark Weitzman, Simon Wiesenthal Center
- Thaima Samman, Piton & Samman law firm, former Associate General Counsel for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft
- Andrei Richter, Moscow Media Law and Policy Institute; Moscow State University
- Stefan Glaser, Jugendschutz.net, Germany
- Max Senges, Google Policy Team, Berlin, Germany
- Meryem Marzouki, French National Scientific Research Center (CNRS)
- Representative of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

Structure of the event:

- 11:30-11:45 Setting the scene, speakers: Dunja Mijatović and Maud de Boer-Buquicchio
- 11:45-13:00 Discussion based on several key questions to be carried by key participants and challenged by audience and remote participants
- 13:00-13:30 Summing up: Recommendations to the various key players to be formulated by audience and key participants

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