



Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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(In English only)

PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY OF THE MEDIA

hosted by the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina
and jointly organised with the
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Sarajevo

29 May 2017

9:30 – 18:00

PROGRAMME

VENUE:

National Assembly
of Bosnia and Herzegovina
“White room”
Trg Bosne i Hercegovine 1
71000 Sarajevo

The event is open to the press and will be live streamed in the spoken languages on www.parlament.ba and video recorded in English. Please contact the PACE secretariat (contacts below) for further information.

1. Background and rationale

The proposed seminar intends to implement the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015-2017, adopted by the Committee of Ministers. It aims at empowering parliamentarians to improve legislation and operational mechanisms in three policy areas: Media, Corruption, and Discrimination.

The second of a series of 3 seminars shall provide an opportunity for enhanced dialogue “on the independence and impartiality of Media”, adopting a peer-to-peer approach, between parliamentarians of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina and members of parliaments of other Council of Europe member States. Good practices shall be shared and synergies created with local and international civil society and institutions in the field of Media, to help promote Council of Europe standards and identify concrete areas of reform of the legislative framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Media ownership transparency is a necessary requirement for both, ensuring media pluralism and offering media users the possibility to use those media intelligently. Public service broadcasters play a crucial role in a democratic society, providing unbiased information, respectful of the plurality of opinions. National parliaments have the power and responsibility to ensure that the mission, structure and funding of their public service broadcasters ensure their independence.

This parliamentary seminar shall provide elements for a discussion within the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the missions of the public broadcaster and the Communications Regulatory Agency, in order to foster a pluralist media environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Participants

Members of the House of Representatives and the House of Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Members of parliaments represented in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
International experts
Members of civil society
Media
Representatives of the Office of the Council of Europe in Sarajevo
Representatives of the European Union delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

3. Working Languages

Working languages will be English, French and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian with simultaneous interpretation provided.

4. Background documents

Please refer to Appendix I.

DRAFT PROGRAMME¹

29 May 2017

9.30 – 9.50 *Registration of participants and welcome coffee*

10.00 - 10.35 am

OPENING SESSION

Welcome by **Mr Senad ŠEPIĆ**, Member of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Chairperson of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

Ms Borjana KRIŠTO, Member of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Vice-chairperson of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

Ms Gülsün BILGEHAN, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Ambassador Drahoslav ŠTEFÁNEK, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo

10.35 - 10.45 am

PRESS CONFERENCE

10.45 am - 12.15 pm

SESSION 1: INDEPENDENCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING

This session aims to define clearly the role, missions and responsibilities of the public service broadcaster in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to ensure its editorial, financial and managerial independence against political and economic interference.

Moderator: **Ms Gülsün BILGEHAN**, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Speakers: **Ms Senada ĆUMUROVIĆ**, Assistant Director General of BHRT (Radio and Television of Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Mr Gvozden FLEGO, Honorary member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Croatia)

Mr Boris BERGANT, Former Vice President of the European Broadcasting Union; Media Adviser, Slovenia

¹ Note:

- Roles of the Moderators: Neutrality and Fairness, Time-keeping, Encouragement, Substance, Focus on concrete commitments
- Speakers are asked to not exceed 10 minute presentations. They are invited to provide substantial contributions to the discussions and give their final opinion on the situation at the end of the discussion.
- Each session will gather a maximum of 3 speakers to provide sufficient time for discussions.
- The General Rapporteur will be asked to provide conclusions of the seminar and write a substantial written report (5 pages) to be shared with participants following the event.

Discussion

12.20 – 2.00 pm *Lunch hosted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

2.00 - 3.30 PM

SESSION 2: LEGAL STANDARDS FOR MEDIA TRANSPARENCY AND PLURALISM

This session seeks to review the legislative framework to ensure adequate transparency of the ownership of, and influence over, media outlets (print media, film, radio, television and Internet-based media), including the disclosure of hidden ownership. The session will provide an opportunity to discuss whether proper guarantees exist, in accordance with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to prevent such reporting obligations from discriminating against foreign ownership of media or to restrict the international dissemination of media products and services.

Moderator: **Ms Dunja MIJATOVIĆ**, Communications, media expert, former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Vienna

Speakers: **Ms Gülsün BILGEHAN**, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Ambassador Lars-Gunnar WIGEMARK, Head of the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Rasto KUZEL, General Rapporteur for the seminar, Executive Director of MEMO 98, Bratislava

Discussion

3.30 – 4.00 pm *Coffee break*

4.00 – 5.30 pm

SESSION 3: THE ROLE OF MEDIA REGULATORS IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

This session aims to discuss the role and powers of media regulators, including their political independence.

Moderator: **Mr Gvozden FLEGO**, Honorary member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Croatia)

Speakers: **Ms Helena MANDIĆ**, Director of Broadcasting, Communications Regulatory Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vice-chairperson of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) in Strasbourg

Ms Dunja MIJATOVIĆ, Communications, media expert, former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Vienna

Discussion

5.30 – 6.00 pm

CLOSING SESSION

Conclusions by: **Mr Rasto KUZEL**, General Rapporteur for the seminar, Executive Director of MEMO 98, Bratislava

Ms Gülsün BILGEHAN, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Mr Senad ŠEPIĆ, Member of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Chairperson of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

6.00 – 7.30 pm *Visit of the City Hall*

4. Secretariat

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APPENDIX I - BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- [PACE Resolution 2065 \(2015\) on Increasing transparency of media ownership](#)
- [Recommendation 2074 \(2015\) on Increasing transparency of media ownership](#)
- [Reply to Recommendation 2074 \(2015\) on Increasing transparency of media ownership](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 1878 \(2009\) on the funding of public service broadcasting](#)
- [Reply to Recommendation 1878 \(2009\) on the funding of public service broadcasting](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 1641 \(2004\) on Public service broadcasting](#)
- [PACE Information note \(14 August 2014\) by the co-rapporteurs on their fact-finding visit to Sarajevo and Travnik \(6 – 9 July 2014\) on the honouring of obligations and commitments by Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Conclusions of the Conference “Public Service Media and Democracy”, Prague \(10-11 November 2016\)](#)

Committee of Ministers

- [GR-DEM\(2016\)14 Bosnia and Herzegovina: Compliance with obligations and commitments](#)
- [Recommendation \(2012\)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on public service media governance \(2012\)](#)
- [Recommendation \(2007\)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the remit of public service media in the information society \(2007\)](#)
- [Recommendation \(2007\)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on media pluralism and diversity of media content \(2007\)](#)
- [Recommendation rec \(2000\) 23 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the independence and functions of regulatory authorities for the broadcasting sector \(20 December 2000\)](#)
- [Recommendation no. R\(96\)10 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the “The Guarantee of the Independence of Public Service Broadcasting” \(1996\)](#)
- [Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the guarantee of the independence of public service broadcasting in the member states \(2006\)](#)
- [Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on protecting the role of the media in democracy in the context of media concentration \(2007\)](#)
- [Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on public service media governance \(2012\)](#)

Other

- [Council of Europe Publication on Standards related to media](#)
- [Commissioner for Human rights’ webpage on media freedom](#)