



Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Parliamentary Project Support Division
Division de soutien de projets parlementaires

PPSD (2017) 24
27 November 2017

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN IMPROVING INDEPENDENCE AND PLURALISM OF THE MEDIA

*Regional conference organised by
the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

Budapest
6 December 2017

PROGRAMME

VENUE:

*Council of Europe
European Youth Centre Budapest
1024 Budapest,
Zivatar utca 1-3.
Hungary*

Partnership for Good Governance



European Union



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Background and rationale

Since the beginning of 2015, the Parliamentary Assembly has participated in the implementation at parliamentary level of the joint programmatic framework between the Council of Europe and the European Union, entitled Partnership for Good Governance. This programme aims to support the reinforcement of democratic reforms in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus.

This conference is part of the Council of Europe's action as approved in the framework of the Partnership for Good Governance. The Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society will meet on this occasion. Closely linked to relevant Council of Europe standards, it shall evaluate strategies for improving media freedom, independence, transparency, pluralism and diversity.

1. Participants

National parliamentary delegations from Eastern Partnership states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine), Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in particular of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and its Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society.

Representatives of media regulators and public service broadcasters

Journalists

2. Languages

The documents of the conference will be available in English, French and Russian. Working languages will be English, French and Russian with simultaneous interpretation provided.

3. Background documents

See Appendix I

4. PROGRAMME¹

9.15 - 9.30

Introductory remarks

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

Ms Gordana BERJAN, Director of the European Youth Centre in Budapest, Council of Europe

9.30 - 11.00

SESSION 1: LEGAL STANDARDS FOR MEDIA TRANSPARENCY AND PLURALISM

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

Speakers: **Mr Gvozden FLEGO**, Honorary member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Croatia

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

Mr Marius DRAGOMIR, Director, Centre for Media, Data and Society, School of Public Policy, Central European University

Discussion with the participation of parliamentarians, media regulators and journalists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

11.00 – 11.20 *Coffee break*

11.20 - 13.00

SESSION 2: REGULATING INDEPENDENCE AND PLURALISM OF AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIA: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Moderator: **Ms Helena MANDIĆ**, Vice-chairperson of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities, Director of Broadcasting, Communications Regulatory Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speakers: **Ms Maria DONDE**, International Policy Manager, Ofcom, United Kingdom

Mr Ivane MAKHARADZE, Head of Broadcasting Regulation Department, National Communications Commission, Georgia

Ms Aiga GRIŠĀNE, Head of Media Policy Division, Ministry of Culture, Latvia

Discussion with the participation of parliamentarians, media regulators and journalists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch*

¹ Note:

- Roles of the Moderators: Neutrality and Fairness, Time-keeping, Encouragement, Substance, Focus on concrete commitments.
- Speakers are asked not to 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 prepare a substantial written report to be shared with participants following the event.

14.30 – 16.30

SESSION 3:

INSTITUTIONAL AND EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING: TOPICAL CHALLENGES

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

Speakers: **Ms Jenny WEINAND**, European Broadcasting Union, Legal Department

Mr Michael RANDALL, Former Project Leader for public service broadcasting reform projects implemented by the BBC in Eastern Europe and the Middle East

Ms Oleksandra KOLTSOVA, Member of the Managing Board, Public Broadcasting Company, Ukraine

Discussion with the participation of parliamentarians, media regulators and journalists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

16.30 – 17.00

CLOSING SESSION

Conclusions by: **Mr Rasto KUŽEL**, Executive Director of MEMO 98, Bratislava; general rapporteur for the conference

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

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

APPENDIX I - BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- [PACE Resolution 2065 \(2015\) on Increasing transparency of media ownership](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 2074 \(2015\) on Increasing transparency of media ownership](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 1878 \(2009\) on the funding of public service broadcasting](#)
- [PACE Recommendation 1641 \(2004\) on Public service broadcasting](#)
- [Conclusions of the Conference “Public Service Media and Democracy”, Prague \(10-11 November 2016\)](#)

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

- [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 CM/Rec(2007)15 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures concerning media coverage of election campaigns (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 \(2000\)](#)
- [Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the guarantee of the independence of public service broadcasting in the member states \(2006\)](#)

Other

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