



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1079th Meeting of the Permanent Council,

26 November 2015

in response to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Mrs. Mijatovic to the meeting of the Permanent Council and thanks her for presenting a comprehensive report on the activities of the RFoM.

We have taken note of many cases of non-compliance with commitments by the OSCE participating States mentioned in the report. Even if not all cases of violations of freedom of expression are registered by the Office of Representative, I would like to encourage Mrs. Mijatovic to demonstrate an inclusive approach in covering media situation in all participating States in an objective and impartial manner in accordance with her mandate.

One of the elements of mandate of the Representative specifically refers to the necessity to increase the level of professionalism, accuracy and adherence to ethical standards among journalists. We expect Mrs. Mijatovic to continue her engagement with OSCE participating States in promoting this tasking, especially in conflict-affected countries.

The report of RFoM addressed many concerns in a number of EU member-states. According to the report there were multiple cases of attacks, intimidation, threats, beating and arrests of journalists, promulgation of restrictive privacy laws, incidents of detention of and surveillance over media activities, introduction of legal amendments limiting access to information and weakening the freedom of expression. In some Western Balkan countries situation with media continued to

deteriorate. We share many of the concerns expressed by Ms. Mijatovic and will closely follow such cases of violation of freedom of expression. Our Delegation strongly encourages the EU member-states and countries, which aligned to the EU statement today to cooperate with the RFoM to address the concerns mentioned in the report and to abide by the commitments they have undertaken in the OSCE.

In conclusion, I wish every success to the Representative Mijatovic in her activities.

Thank you.