18TH CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCE

Multi-faceted challenges to media freedom in Central Asia

13-14 December 2016, Vienna, Austria

Venue: Hofburg, Bibliotheksaal - 5th floor

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday, 13 December

09.00 – 09.30   **REGISTRATION**

09.30 – 10.00   **OPENING SESSION**

Introduction: Frane Maroevic, Director, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM)

Welcoming remarks
- Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Ambassador Eberhard Pohl, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE and Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council in 2016
- Rasa Ostrauskaite, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats

10.00 – 11.30   **SESSION I: Legal and policy responses to counter violent extremism (CVE) and hate speech online: best practices exchange**

The opening session will focus on the topic of countering violent extremism in the media, in particular, new media, while ensuring protection of fundamental human rights, including the freedom of expression. The keynote speaker and representatives of state institutions from Central Asia will speak about measures taken by policy makers, law enforcement and security agencies and lawyers and other stakeholders. Cooperation of the state agencies with internet companies, media associations, and civil society remains a sine qua non for the success of any such strategy.

The discussion will also highlight the role of self-regulation of ICT companies alongside the users' access to any controversial materials in as much as their response to them, including sharing, marking, etc.

Moderator: Frane Maroevic, Director, Office of the RFoM

Keynote speaker: Etienne Augé, Senior lecturer, Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands)

- Ruslan Alishev, Vice-President of the Information Committee, Ministry of Information and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ilkhom Abdullaev, Head, Parliamentary Committee on Information and Communications Technologies, Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Government/State institution representative from Kyrgyzstan - TBC

11.30 – 12.00   **GROUP PHOTO and COFFEE BREAK**

12.00 – 13.00   **SESSION I (cont'd): Legal and policy responses to CVE and hate speech online: best practices exchange**

Moderator: Frane Maroevic, Director, Office of the RFoM

- Government/State institution representative from Tajikistan - TBC
- Government/State institution representative from Turkmenistan - TBC
- Discussion
- Distribution of the draft conference recommendations

13.00 – 14.00   **LUNCH**

14.00 – 15.30   **WORKSHOP I: Propaganda of hatred in the media: self-regulation & journalism ethics**

The current technological advances which provide millions of people around the globe access to the news and give them a platform to distribute news just as it occurs, also enables the distribution of fake news of distortions and incitement to violence against ethnic, religious and social groups. Journalists themselves have become a target of verbal abuse and threats in the social media. With the growing pluralism of digital media, media audiences seem to be increasingly confined to 'echo-chambers' of their own opinions.

The speakers are invited to touch upon the following issues:
- What is the required response on the part of editors and publishers as gate-keepers?
- Which responses on the part of the governments and regulatory agencies are best suited to confront the phenomenon of hate speech and propaganda in the media?

Moderator/Rapporteur: Andrey Rikhter, Senior Adviser to the RFoM

Panel:
- Inga Sikorskaya, Director, School of Peacemaking and Media Technology, Kyrgyzstan
- Nuriddin Karshiboev, Chair, National Association of Independent Media, Tajikistan
- Adil Jalilov, Director, International Centre for Journalism Medianet, Kazakhstan

15.30 – 16.00   **COFFEE BREAK**

16.00 – 17.30   **WORKSHOP II: Digital broadcasting in Central Asia and Mongolia: challenges and potential solutions**

The digital TV switchover has been a target for broadcasters and governments in Central Asia and Mongolia for over a decade, ever since the International Telecommunications Union set the date for the switchover as 2015. As elsewhere in the world, the DTV switchover in the region comes as a stress test for broadcasters

and regulators alike, both in technical terms and in terms of the social ramifications of the process. Unless certain rules and principles are taken into account by national governments and regulators, there may be a risk of negative effects of the switchover, e.g. less media pluralism, new barriers for cultural and linguistic diversity and for the free international flow of information. The level playing field in the licensing procedure is a necessary condition of ensuring media pluralism after the switchover is completed. The economic situation of the audience may become an important factor for the media outreach, thus necessitating social programmes on the part of the governments.

The speakers are invited to touch upon the following issues:
- How is the process of licensing of digital broadcasters proceeding?
- Do regional broadcasters receive equitable access to multiplexes?
- Are programmes supporting lower income families in acquiring set-top boxes in place?

<u>Moderator/Rapporteur</u>: Elena Cherniavska, Senior Adviser to the RFoM

<u>Panel</u>:
- Shahlo Akobirova, Director, Khoma NGO, Tajikistan
- Sholpan Zhaksybaeva, Director, National Association of Broadcasters, Kazakhstan
- Sampil Sharavdorj, Board member, Media Council of Mongolia, and Head, Rural Journalists' Association

18.00　　**RECEPTION** (Hofburg, Ratsaal Foyer - 5th floor)
Hosted by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Day 2: Wednesday, 14 December

9.00 – 10.00　　**SESSION II: Latest media freedom developments in Central Asia and Mongolia**

<u>Moderator</u>: Matthijs Berman, Principal Adviser to the RFOM

Reports and discussion on media freedom developments since the 17th Central Asian Media Conference, including the safety of journalists, current case law, legislative initiatives and framework, media transparency, professional standards, and other pertinent issues and challenges to media freedom.

- Tamara Kaleyeva, President, International Foundation For Protection of Freedom of Speech Adil Soz, Kazakhstan
- Nurgul Abdykerimova, Director, Media Development Center, Kyrgyzstan
- Munkhburen Dash, Lawyer, Globe International Center, Mongolia

10.00 – 10.30　　**COFFEE BREAK**
Collection of feedback on the draft conference recommendations

10.30 – 11.30　　**SESSION II (cont'd): Latest media freedom developments in Central Asia and Mongolia**

<u>Moderator</u>: Matthijs Berman, Principal Adviser to the RFOM

- Daniil Kislov, Chief Editor, Fergana.Ru news agency
- Sergei Ejkov, Chief Editor, UzMetronom.com Internet newspaper , Uzbekistan

- Nuriddin Karshiboev, Chair, National Association of Independent Media, Tajikistan

11.30 – 12.00   **CLOSING SESSION**

<u>Moderator</u>: Andrey Rikhter, Senior Adviser to the RFoM

Adoption of the conference recommendations

Closing remarks
Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media