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**Buanscaireacht na hÉireann**  
**don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip**  
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the  
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18  
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**Statement by Ireland**  
**1452<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**  
**Report of the Representative on Freedom of the Media**

Mr Chair

Ireland aligns with the statement made by the EU and would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

We wish to welcome Representative Teresa Ribeiro back to the Permanent Council and to thank her and her team for their important work in implementing the mandate of the Representative for Freedom of the Media.

I would like to highlight two points from the Representative's comprehensive and thoughtful report on media freedom and today's security context.

Firstly, the report makes clear that, in this extremely challenging time for media freedom in our region, the mandate of the Representative for Freedom of the Media is more necessary than ever.

At the Human Dimension Committee in July, we discussed the record number of journalists and media actors that are detained worldwide and the growing threats to the safety of journalists in many OSCE participating States, including as a result of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

I would like to thank the Representative for her contribution to the Human Dimension Committee and for reminding us of the unique mandate of her office and the wider OSCE human dimension tools in supporting participating States to address challenges related to media freedom.

The second point that the Representative's report makes very clear is that her mandate has never been more seriously challenged in its 26-year history than it is today.

This is a deeply regrettable state of affairs. We know that free, independent and pluralistic media are essential for democratic and accountable governance and for the enjoyment of all human rights, without which there cannot be sustainable security.

This is why participating States established the office of the Representative and confirmed that we would cooperate fully with the office.

Ireland calls on all participating States to re-commit to the mandate of the Representative for Freedom of the Media and to provide the resources that the office needs to implement its mandate.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Representative Ribeiro and her team for the support and contributions you have provided to the Human Dimension Committee this year.

Please be assured of Ireland's continued support for the work of the Representative for Freedom of the Media.

Thank you Mr Chair