

641st Plenary Meeting

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DECISION No. 759
MEDIA TWINNING: CAPACITY-BUILDING IN SUPPORT OF
PROFESSIONAL MEDIA THROUGH PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES

The Permanent Council,

Considering that independent media are an essential instrument for ensuring democratic transparency and accountability,

Acknowledging media twinning as reciprocal peer-to-peer exchanges between relevant media actors in view of media capacity-building in support of the OSCE's principles and commitments, in particular on freedom of the media, through, *inter alia*, study visits, training seminars and staff exchanges,

Aware that free and professional media can defend the values of peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding, thus positively contributing to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Conscious of the important role media can play as a driving force for democracy and peace in the OSCE region,

Welcoming the OSCE's media capacity-building activities throughout the whole OSCE area as part of democratic institution-building, initiated by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and, where applicable, OSCE field operations,

Convinced of the benefit of sharing the expertise of media organizations directly amongst peers,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' commitments to encourage direct contacts and international exchanges between media organizations, in particular as undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Concluding Document of Madrid (1983) and the Copenhagen Document (1990),

Decides to:

1. Task the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to co-ordinate the examination by the relevant OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates and in consultation with media organizations, of modalities for facilitating media twinning

throughout the OSCE area, including budgetary aspects, and make relevant proposals accordingly to the participating States;

2. Call upon the participating States to consider those proposals for possible further follow-up.