



RIGHT OF REPLY STATEMENT BY TURKEY

**In response to some statements made at Working Session 4 (Fundamental freedoms I) of the
2013 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

Warsaw, 25 September 2013

Thank you Mr. Moderator

Representative Mijatovic, the US delegation and Freedom House all referred to the “imprisoned journalists” in my country. Given the limited time, I would suffice to emphasize once again that the relevant ongoing lawsuits and imprisonment sentences in Turkey are based on crimes which are completely unrelated to journalistic activities or to journalist status. It is natural that as in all other participating States, journalists are not granted criminal immunity in Turkey as well.

That being said, there is always room for improvement in any healthy democracy. In that respect we have the necessary political will. Guided and supported by our ambitious judicial reform process, we are determined to continue our policy of furthering freedom of the media and freedom of expression, in cooperation with the Representative on Freedom of the Media and in line with our OSCE commitments.

None of us is perfect. Having said this, we would not wish to interpret the EU's statement today as being overly lenient towards its own Member States that have shortfalls as well.

Finally, I would just remind this body that our views on the Gezi Park demonstrations, which were mentioned in the statement of the US delegation, have already been put on record at the Permanent Council.

Thank you.