



Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE, the UN and
other International Organizations
in Vienna

**Statement of the Delegation of Hungary
at the 1121st Permanent Council
1st December 2016.**

Mr. Chair,

We fully align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU. At the same time let me add a few comments in my national capacity as a reaction to the statement of the distinguished US delegation.

As a starting point let me emphasize, that the Fundamental Law of Hungary stipulates that everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression. Hungary also recognizes and protect the diversity of the press. After the adoption of an effective, transparent and up to date new regulation in 2010, the new framework defines and protects editorial and journalistic freedom of expression, and contains provisions aiming at preventing market concentration and regulates media service providers with significant powers of influence. The newly established media authority in Hungary, which is responsible for telecommunication and frequency management is now an autonomous regulatory agency subordinated by law, while its predecessor was directed by the government and overseen by a designated minister.

After the aforementioned new framework entered into force, the Hungarian authorities engaged in constructive dialogue with all respective international actors, among others, the EU, the CoE, the Venice Commission and the OSCE. As a result of these negotiations the Hungarian Government made amendments to the legislation in line with the recommendations of our partners.

About the recent case of Népszabadság, the publisher suspended the publication of the printed and online editions of the newspaper on the 10th of October as a solely economic decision, following an accumulation of debt of 5 billion Forints or 17 million EUR in recent years. The Government of Hungary has no will, nor power to interfere with the business decisions of independent media publishers.

Finally let me take this opportunity and thank Dunja Mijatovich for her dedication in defending the freedom of the media.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.