



Représentation du Royaume de Belgique
auprès de l'OSCE

Wohllebengasse 6/3
A - 1040 Wien
T +43 15056364
F +43 15050388
Mail: viennaosce@diplobel.fed.be
www.diplomatie.be/viennaosce

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Belgian intervention Session 5:
"Measures to improve implementation of the human dimension commitments"

Mr. Chairperson,

Belgium welcomes the holding of this particular session, since we strongly believe that the principal challenge facing the human dimension is the implementation by the participation States of their shared commitments.

We are discussing here today ways to achieve progress in the manner our commitments are implemented; however in one area of the human dimension, namely freedom of the media, this progress has been lagging behind. The previous Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklós Haraszti, stated in his 2009 yearbook: "The issues that we had to deal with this year, just as in other years, reveal that no dramatic improvements have taken place, while sometimes dramatic deterioration has."

The participation States of the OSCE have all acknowledged that independent media are essential to free and open societies and accountable systems of government, and are of particular importance in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The spirit of the OSCE consists of assisting participating States, helping us to live up to the promises we collectively subscribed to. The Representative on Freedom of the Media provides us with that assistance and therefore deserves our support.

Belgium fully endorses the ideas and concrete suggestions that have been put forward here today by the delegation from The Netherlands on ways to enhance the implementation of our commitments in the field of freedom of the media. Belgium also joins the Netherlands in its call for enhancing the capacities of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, so that, even in times where rapid developments in the media landscape pose new challenges, it is able to work together with the participating States.