



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**Mission to Montenegro**

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**OSCE MISSION TO MONTENEGRO  
CABINET OF THE HEAD OF MISSION  
Podgorica, 22. January, 2014**

**On the occasion of Day of Journalists of Montenegro  
Address of the Acting Head of Mission of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro,  
Waldemar Figaj, on behalf of the Head of Mission**

This day in 1871, first Montenegrin newspaper “Crnogorac” was printed, giving birth to journalism in this country.

Today, 23. January 2014, Montenegrin public enjoys diverse and pluralistic media landscape being able to receive information through print, electronic and on-line media.

As a participating state of the OSCE, the country made a number of commitments in the sphere of freedom of media: from respect to freedom of media, free flow of information to commitment to support media pluralism and safe environment for journalists and media to implement their work.

Journalist community, in its turn, is expected to adhere to professional standards and respect professional ethics.

On the occasion of the Day of Montenegrin Journalists, the Mission would like to address them both, media and the state.

Media are vital in shaping healthy democracy, crucial to the development of a country. Being an important intermediary between the state and the public, journalists have a responsibility to inform about various social, political and economic processes, spot and investigate wrong-doings of the authorities, alarm the public.

Safety and freedom of journalists are necessary preconditions for functioning of the complex system of checks and balances that characterizes democratic societies. In a nutshell, media and journalists should play a role of a “watch dog” of democracy.

On the other side, the quality of the information an individual is able to access through media will greatly influence his or her ability to participate in the societal and political process. In other words, journalists have a responsibility towards their fellow citizens to

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provide correct and analytical information. It is their mission to seek and distribute the truth to their audience.

Today, we would like to congratulate all journalists of Montenegro with their Professional Day and to send the message that the OSCE Mission to Montenegro is ready to work with journalists, media and government in order to achieve the suitable environment where the journalists would feel safe and the citizens would be properly informed.

**Waldemar Figaj,**  
Acting HoM of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro