



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement as delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE
Ambassador Konstantin Zaldastanishvili
in response to the Report by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,
Ms. Dunja Mijatović at the Permanent Council meeting Nr 974
Vienna, November 28, 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to welcome the Special Representative of the OSCE on Freedom of Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović back to the Permanent Council meeting and thank her for the comprehensive overview of the media related issues across the OSCE region.

Ms. Mijatović, we congratulate you and your dedicated team on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the RFoM.

The work undertaken by you, Ms. Mijatović, personally and your dedicated staff greatly contributes to the promotion of free media, pluralistic society and rights of journalists in the OSCE area. The Government of Georgia highly values your engagement and reiterates its determination to work closely with your office in order to bring the media related practice and legislation in line with OSCE standards.

We are pleased that on 11-12 of November the 10-th South Caucasus Media Conference was held in Tbilisi. To host this conference by the Georgian side became a tradition and it provides a good opportunity to take stock of progress in media freedom in the region, share best practices and generate ideas for making concrete progress in addressing remaining challenges.

We are thankful for the special attention that you, Ms. Mijatović have attached to the developments in Georgia. Numerous reforms were accomplished by my Government with the objective to improve media environment, and facilitate media pluralism, among them, through

making appropriate amendments to the media-related legislation and bringing the broadcasting practices to the European standards.

Concerning the specific questions with regard to the recent developments at the Georgian Public Broadcaster, I would like to stress that the Georgian Public Broadcaster is an autonomous legal entity, established under the Georgian Law on Public Broadcasting and is free from any political and commercial pressure. Georgian Public Broadcaster has its own self-regulation mechanism and is publicly accountable. It should be mentioned that on the 20th of November 2013, Georgian Parliament approved amendments to the Georgian Law on Public Broadcasting. The new amendments to the law will be the guarantee of entirely freeing the Georgian Public Broadcaster from political influences.

In conclusion, allow me to once again extend my warm regards to you Ms. Mijatović and reiterate that the Georgian side is very much delighted by the prospect of continuing active cooperation with your office, which is so indispensable for promoting the truly free media environment in Georgia.

Thank you.