



SECRETARIAT

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14 November 2013

To the members of the Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society

Synopsis of the meeting held in Belgrade on 6-7 November 2013

The Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, meeting in Belgrade together with the Committee on Culture and Media of the National Assembly of Serbia, with **Lady Diana Eccles** (United Kingdom, EDG) and **Ms Vesna Marjanović** (Serbia, SOC) in the chair,

- **Wednesday, 6 November, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, from 12 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

heard the opening statement by H.E. Mr Nebojša Stefanović, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia;

as regards:

- ***Protection of media freedom in Europe:***

held an exchange of views with:

- Ms Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Mr Mogens Blicher-Bjerregård, President of the European Federation of Journalists
- Mr William Horsley, Media Freedom Representative, Association of European Journalists;

- ***Priorities for audiovisual media policy in Europe:***

held an exchange of views with:

- Mr Ivan Tasovac, Minister of Culture and Media of Serbia
- Ms Ingrid Deltrenre, Director General of the European Broadcasting Union
- Mr Pieter de Wit, Board Member of the Community Media Forum Europe;

made a joint statement with the Committee on Culture and Media of the National Assembly of Serbia (see Appendix I);

- **Thursday, 7 November, Hotel Metropol Palace, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

participated in the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society: Freedom of expression and democracy in the digital age:

- Session I: Access to the Internet and fundamental rights
- Session II: How do we address the current threats to journalism?
- Session III: Pluralism, diversity and quality in the new media ecosystem

- *Next meetings:* decided to meet next in: Strasbourg, during the 1st part-session 2014 (27-31 January 2014).

Rüdiger Dossow

cc: Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe

Appendix 1 (English only)



Republic of Serbia
National Assembly



Meeting on 6 November 2013 in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia on the occasion of the Council of Europe ministerial conference on media and information society, the Committee on Culture and Media of the National Assembly and the Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly held hearings on the protection of media freedom and priorities for audiovisual media policy.

In conclusion, both committees

- expressed their gratitude to the National Assembly of Serbia for having hosted this joint meeting,
- appreciated that a parliamentary dimension has thus been added to the ministerial conference in Belgrade on 7-8 November,
- emphasised the vital importance of media freedom for democracy and regretted that this freedom was frequently challenged in Europe,
- encouraged the ministers participating in the Belgrade conference as well as the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to reinforce their action within the Council of Europe to improve media freedom throughout Europe and to take action for the safety of journalists,
- supported the independence and financial sustainability of public service broadcasting as well as community media as essential elements of the media landscape in a democratic society.