



SECRETARIAT

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

### Synopsis of the meeting held in Istanbul on 12 and 13 May 2014

The Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, meeting in Istanbul on 12 and 13 May 2014, with **Sir Roger Gale** (United Kingdom, EDG) in the chair,

- on Monday, 12 May 2014, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,

heard opening statements by:

- Mr Reha Denemeç (Turkey, EDG), Chairperson of the Turkish Parliamentary Delegation,
- Ms Gülsün Bilgehan (Turkey, SOC), Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee;

heard addresses by:

- Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
- Mr Ricardo Gutierrez, General Secretary of the European Federation of Journalists;

as regards:

- **Protection of media freedom in Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Gvozden Srećko Flego, Croatia, SOC*):

held an exchange of views with the rapporteur and:

- Mr William Horsley, Media Freedom Representative of the Association of European Journalists,
- Ms Sahiba Gafarova, Chairperson of the Committee on Culture of the Parliament of Azerbaijan,
- Mr Reha Denemeç, Chairperson of the Turkish Parliamentary Delegation;

heard Ms Füsün Erdoğan, Turkish journalist, and Mr Mustafa Balbay, Turkish journalist and Member of Parliament;

took note of the Written Declaration proposed by its Chairperson (see appendix);

- **Media responsibility and media ethics in a changing media environment** (*Rapporteur: Mr Volodymyr Ariev, Ukraine, EPP/CD*):

held an exchange of views with the rapporteur and:

- Dr Rachael Craufurd Smith, University of Edinburgh,
- Ms Eliso Chapidze, Vice-Chairperson, and Ms Tamar Kordzaia, Member, Committee on Education, Sciences and Culture of the Parliament of Georgia;

- **on Tuesday, 13 May 2014, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,**

heard a presentation by Dr Tayfun Acarer, President of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Turkey;

as regards:

- ***Increasing co-operation against cyber terrorism and other large-scale attacks on the Internet*** (Rapporteur: Mr Hans Franken, Netherlands, EPP/CD):

held an exchange of views with the rapporteur and:

- Dr Yaman Akdeniz, Istanbul Bilgi University;

- ***Increasing transparency of media ownership*** (Rapporteur: Ms Gülsün Bilgehan, Turkey, SOC):

held an exchange of views with the rapporteur and:

- Dr Peggy Valcke, University of Leuven,
- Mr Martin Zachariev, Member of the Committee on Culture and Media of the Parliament of Bulgaria,
- Ms Corina Fusu, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Education, Research, Youth, Sport and Media of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova;

- ***Other business:***

heard Dr Wolfgang Benedek, University of Graz, on his mission in Turkey for the EU Commission, DG Enlargement, regarding freedom of expression under Chapter 23 on judiciary and fundamental rights;

thanked the Turkish Parliamentary Delegation for its hospitality and the Assembly's Parliamentary Projects Support Division for its co-operation;

- ***Next meetings:*** decided to meet next in Strasbourg during the 3<sup>rd</sup> part-session (23 - 27 June 2014).

Roberto Fasino, Rüdiger Dossow

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cc: Secretary General of the Assembly  
Director General, Director 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

### **Draft Written Declaration by Sir Roger Gale (United Kingdom, EDG) and other members on the need to strengthen Council of Europe action to protect the safety of journalists**

Media freedom is seriously challenged in many parts of Europe. As no democracy can function without independent and pluralist media, it is a core objective of the Council of Europe to promote the respect of media freedom under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights throughout all its member States.

Referring to paragraph 12 of Assembly Resolution 1897 (2010) on respect for media freedom, we therefore reiterate the request to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to allocate the resources necessary to collate information on serious violations of media freedom, analyse this information on a systematic basis country by country, and make such information publicly available in electronic format on a website.

We appreciate the French initiative taken in the Committee of Ministers, encourage other member States to contribute to this work and invite media freedom organisations to join the Council of Europe in this effort. We regard the Task Force on the safety of journalists led by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe as a significant and essential step forward, intended to develop an early warning and rapid response mechanism.