



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Representative on Freedom of the Media
Dunja Mijatović**

270/16

Vienna, 25 July 2016

H.E. Mikheil Janelidze
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Your Excellency,

Allow me to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the hospitality shown to me during my visit to Tbilisi on 6-7 July on the occasion of my Office's 13th South Caucasus Media Conference.

The two-day event brought together more than 80 journalists, representatives of government and civil society from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, along with international experts and participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom.

Participants discussed a wide range of issues affecting media freedom, including the safety and security of media workers online and offline, the influence of the Internet on the changing media landscape, and content regulation in conflict-affected regions, including the legal implications and professional standards of journalists.

At the end of the conference, participants adopted the attached recommendations, which I would like to bring to your attention.

These recommendations offer important perspectives that I hope will guide the South Caucasus countries in the further development of media and will be used by the relevant authorities when considering policies and practices related to the safety of journalists, the prevention of hateful propaganda, the promotion of media literacy, as well as to ensuring an overall positive environment for free expression and media pluralism.

I would also like to thank you for your comments during the opening address to the conference and for our constructive meeting that followed.

As we discussed, Georgia has achieved substantial and widely recognized progress on free media and freedom of expression. In this regard, I was encouraged with your assurances that the authorities would continue to preserve and enhance these exemplary achievements and maintain a diverse, vibrant and pluralistic media landscape.

My Office stands ready to support Georgia in this important process and provide necessary policy recommendations.

I will continue to follow media freedom developments in your country closely and look forward to meeting with you in Hamburg at the OSCE Ministerial Council.

Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to the Head of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the OSCE, Ambassador Konstantine Zaldastanishvili, and his dedicated team for their excellent and constructive cooperation.

Availing myself of this opportunity, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Dunja Mijatović

CC: H.E. Konstantine Zaldastanishvili
Ambassador
Head of the Permanent Delegation of Georgia to the OSCE

Attachment, 5 pages: Recommendations from the 13th South Caucasus Media Conference (in Georgian and English)