



Deutscher Bundestag



Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire

<http://assembly.coe.int>



PPSD (2016) 7 rev.3  
27 June 2016

# PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON MEDIA FREEDOM AS A CORNERSTONE FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

Hosted by the Parliament of Germany

and organised by

the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

in cooperation with the Venice Commission

Berlin, 4 July 2016

## PROGRAMME

### Venue:

German Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag)

Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus, Room 3.101

Entrance: Adele-Schreiber-Krieger-Strasse 1, 10117 Berlin

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Programmatic Cooperation Framework for  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## **Background and rationale**

Beginning in 2015, the Parliamentary Assembly has participated in the implementation at parliamentary level of the joint framework agreement between the Council of Europe and the European Union, the so called 2015-2017 EU-CoE Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF). This programme aims at providing assistance to the reinforcement of democratic reforms in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus.

Under the priority 'promoting democratic governance', the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) undertakes activities on ways and means to improve (regional) parliamentary co-operation in electoral matters by organising regional parliamentary seminars and conferences. This conference will be the second in this series: it strives to encourage peer-to-peer parliamentary dialogue and will focus on evaluating strategies for ensuring media freedom, media transparency and access of political parties and candidates to the media in the context of democratic elections.

### **1. Participants**

National parliamentary delegations from Eastern Partnership member states of the Council of Europe (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine) and Belarus; members of the Parliamentary Assembly, in particular of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

Representatives of central electoral commissions and media regulators

Representatives of media and NGOs

### **2. Languages**

The documents of the conference will be available in English, French and Russian.

Working languages will be English, French, German and Russian with simultaneous interpretation provided.

### **3. Background documents**

**PACE Resolution 2065 (2015)** on increasing transparency of media ownership

**PACE Recommendation 1878 (2009)** on the funding of public service broadcasting

**Recommendation (2007) 15 of the Committee of Ministers** on measures concerning media coverage of election campaigns

**Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters** by the Venice Commission, 23 May 2003 (CDL-AD(2002)023rev)

**Guidelines on media analysis during election observation missions** by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and the Venice Commission, 16 June 2009 (CDL-AD(2009)031)

**Compilation of Venice Commission opinions and reports concerning media and elections,**

**Election observation reports on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus**

## **Sunday 3 July 2016**

- 17h45      *Optional: Departure by bus from Steigenberger Hotel Kanzleramt  
(Ella-Trebe-Strasse 5, 10557 Berlin)*
- 18h00      *Dinner at Restaurant Dressler  
(Unter den Linden 39, 10117 Berlin – Tel. 030 / 204 44 22)*
- 20h00      *Optional: Departure by bus from the restaurant to Steigenberger Hotel Kanzleramt*

## **Monday 4 July 2016**

- 8h15      *Optional: Departure by bus from Steigenberger Hotel Kanzleramt to the Bundestag*
- 8h30 - 9h00      Registration of participants

### **Opening session**

(9h00 - 9h30)

Mr Gernot ERLER, Member of the Bundestag, Special Representative of the German Government for the OSCE Chairmanship and Government Coordinator for Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership countries, former State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany

Ms Gülsün BILGEHAN, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Mr Thomas MARKERT, Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe

### **Session 1: Standards for media in the context of elections**

(9h30 - 11h00)

Moderator:      Ms Adele GAMBARO, First Vice-Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Member of the Italian Senate

*State control over media and journalists and the elections of 1989 and 1990 in the former German Democratic Republic – a historic view for future lessons,*

Mr Jens SCHÖNE, Deputy Commissioner of Berlin for the files of the “Stasi” (former state security agency of East Germany), Berlin

Speakers:      Ms Katharine SARIKAKIS, Professor of Media Governance, Department of Communication, University of Vienna, Expert of the Venice Commission, Austria

Mr Reinhart BINDER, Director of Legal Affairs and Company Development, Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg (RBB Broadcasting Corporation)

Contributions by representatives of the central election commissions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

*Discussion*

## **Session 2: Media ethics and transparency regarding party political interests**

(11h00 - 12h30)

Moderator: Ms Elfa Ýr GYLFADOTTIR, Director of the Icelandic Media Commission, Chairperson of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Media and Information Society

Speakers: Mr Mogens BLICHER BJERREGÅRD, President of the European Federation of Journalists

Mr Thomas DAUTIEU, Deputy Director of Programmes, French Higher Audiovisual Council (CSA), on behalf of the Venice Commission, France

Contributions by representatives of the central election commissions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

*Discussion*

*12h30 - 14h30 Lunch offered by the German delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and hosted by Mr Andrej Hunko, Member of the German Parliament*

## **Session 3: Role of parliaments in ensuring media freedom in the context of elections**

(14h30 - 16h30)

Moderator: Ms Gülsün BILGEHAN, Chairperson of the PACE Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society, Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Speakers: Mr Alexander SHLYK, Acting Head of the Election Department, OSCE/ODIHR, Warsaw

Mr Nicos ALIVIZATOS, Lawyer, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Athens, Member of the Venice Commission, Greece

Chairpersons or representatives of the national parliamentary committees dealing with media issues from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

*Discussion*

## **Conclusions**

(16h30 - 17h00)

Summary of the conference by Mr Rasto KUZEL, Executive Director of MEMO 98, Bratislava

Concluding remarks

(17h00 - 18h30)

*Guided tour of the Bundestag  
(transport will be provided to Steigenberger Hotel Kanzleramt)*