



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

Date and Venue: 29-30 October 2024, Palais de l'Europe, Room 8, Strasbourg

SOJ(2024)5

Concept Note

Protection of Journalists- a multistakeholder dialogue

Objective: In the wake of increasing threats, violence, and challenges faced by journalists worldwide, the thematic conference on the Protection of Journalists serves as a critical platform for a comprehensive dialogue and strategic planning. The objective of this conference is rooted in the Council of Europe's Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2016\)4](#) on the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists, and its four pillars: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Promotion. Particularly, it marks the first of the series of 4 major events throughout the Council of Europe "Journalists Matter" [Campaign on the Safety of Journalists](#), focusing on the Protection pillar, also in line with the [European Commission's Recommendation on the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists](#).

Discussions will address the main target groups of the Campaign: public authorities, including the judiciary, law enforcement, civil society, journalists' and media organizations, and international organisations. Council of Europe main bodies' representatives, including Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of local and regional authorities, Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, will also be present.

The event will highlight the democratic function of journalists in various contexts, raising awareness of the important role they perform during crises, elections, demonstrations, and conflict zones.

The participants will delve into the legislative frameworks addressing violence against journalists and assess/discuss the efficacy of existing laws. They will explore ways to improve practical protection measures, including by law enforcement bodies, partnerships and/or memorandums of cooperation that are likely to help better protecting journalists' safety, as well as the importance of procedural guarantees in cases of deprivation of liberty, emphasizing the right to legal representation, medical assistance etc.

Discussions will look into measures that media organizations themselves, but also media owners, are expected to take to ensure that their journalists are prepared and protected against pressure, intimidation and attacks. The role of the civil society in raising public awareness of the role of journalists and the importance of their protection will also be tackled.

Recognising the specific dangers faced by female journalists, the conference will emphasize gender-specific approaches in protective measures. Finally, the conference will discuss best existing initiatives and practices in member states, including protocols of collaboration between journalists and relevant stakeholders that have a role in journalists' safety.



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

29-30 October 2024, Palais de l'Europe, Room 8, Strasbourg

Agenda

Day 1

8.45-9.15 Welcome coffee and registration

9.15-10.00 Session 1: Opening remarks

(projection of Journalists Matter Campaign video 2024 - Protection pillar)

Moderator: Irena Guidikova, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

- Marja Ruotanen, Director General, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
- Andrius Krivas, Ambassador, Chair of the Ministers' Deputies, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe
- Claude Wild, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe, Chair to the Group of Friends for Media freedom and Safety of Journalists

10.00-10.10 Updates on the Journalists Matter Campaign:

- Rodica Ciochina, Campaign Manager, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, Directorate for Democracy, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity

10.10-11.00 Session 2: Standards and legal frameworks

Moderator: Irena Guidikova, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department

- Ali Bozkaya, Lawyer and Freedom of Expression case-law Coordinator at the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights
- Peter Noordlander, Council of Europe Consultant, Reporters Shield Adviser
- Beatriz Brown, Policy Lead – Civil Justice Strategy and Growth, former member of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (MSI-SLP)
- Q/R

11.00-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15- 12.00 Continuation of Session 2: Standards and legal frameworks

Moderator: Irena Guidikova, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

- Valentina Grippo, Special Rapporteur for Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- Melanie Lepoutier, Deputy Standing Rapporteur on Human Rights and Rapporteur on local and regional media, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe
- Renate Gensch, Spokesperson, State Chairwoman, German Journalists' Union (DJU) in Ver.di Berlin-Brandenburg
- Q/A

12.00-12.30 Partner Organisations perspectives

- Carlos Perez Maestro, Policy Officer, Audiovisual and Media Policy, DG Connect, European Commission
- Andrea Cairola, Senior Programme Specialist, Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section, UNESCO
- Barbara Trionfi, Senior Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

12.30 – 14.30

Lunch Break

14.30-16.00 Session 3: Operational measures of protection

Moderator: Adrien Collin, Project Officer, European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

- Testimony: Clements Lotze, Journalist, Germany
- Wim Hoonhout, Team leader and coordinator, Central Police, The Netherlands
- Lieutenant Colonel Marco Ciervo, Carabinieri Corps, Italy
- Brigadier Ernst Albrecht, Special Police Operations, Federal Police Directorate, General Directorate for Public Security, Federal Ministry of Interior, Austria
- Practices from countries: *interventions from the floor*
- Q/A

16.00-16.15

Coffee Break

16.15 -17.30 Continuation of Session 3: Capacity building, trainings and other support measures

Moderator: Adrien Collin, Project Officer, European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

- Alina Tatarenko, Head of Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression, Council of Europe
- Christian Gloger and Klemens Kohler, founders and members of *Between the lines initiative*, Saxony, Germany
- Anna Svedberg, Head of Security, Swedish Radio
- Pauline Adès-Mével, Journalist, trainer, expert on journalists' safety
- Q/A

18.00-19.15 Ground 0, Palais de l'Europe

- **Networking reception** hosted by the Chairmanship of the Group of Friends for Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists, the Permanent Representation of Switzerland to the Council of Europe
- **Photo exhibition:** *United Hearts of Families of the Missing and Imprisoned-* by the Ukrainian photographer Yevhen Zinchenko

19.30-21.00 Projection room, Floor -1, Palais de l'Europe

- **Projection of "20 Days in Mariupol"** - a Oscar winning documentary by Pulitzer Prize Ukrainian journalist Mstyslav Chernov

Day 2

8.45-9.15 Welcoming coffee

9.15-10.45 Session 4: Protection of journalists in conflict zones. Role of the state and other actors

Moderator: Tarlach McGonagle, Senior lecturer & researcher at Institute for Information Law (IViR), University of Amsterdam

(Ukrainian journalists- documentary projection)

- Svitlana Zalizetska, Journalist fled from Zaporizha, Ukraine
- Oleksandr Maksymenko, Head of the Investment Protection and Specialization Development Unit, Department of Criminal Policy and Investment Protection, Prosecutor's General Office, Member of the Campaign Committee, Ukraine (TBC)
- General Constantin Spanu, Ministry of Defense, Romania
- Dr. Nikos Panagiotou, Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Scientific Supervisor of the International Training Centre for the Safety of Journalists and Media Professionals (ICSJ)
- Q/A

10.45-11.00 Coffee Break



JOURNALISTS MATTER

Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists

11.00-12.00 Session 5: Addressing specific threats (online threats, challenges for women journalists, journalists in exile)

- Testimony: Elif Akgül, Turkish journalist
- Maria Ordzhonikidze, Director, Justice for Journalists Foundation
- Marek Kordik, Associated professor, Faculty of Law, University in Bratislava
- Leah Kieran, Policy Officer, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Ireland
- Q/A

12.00-12.30 Summary of discussions

- Tarlach McGonnagle, Senior lecturer & researcher at Institute for Information Law (IViR), University of Amsterdam: *Key points for a National Action Plan to strengthen journalists' protection measures*

Closing remarks

- Maja Zaric, Chair of the Steering Committee for Media and Information Society (CDMSI)