

**First Meeting of National Focal Points for the Council of Europe Campaign
for the Safety of Journalists**

6 October 2023, Riga, National Library of Latvia

Minutes

The First meeting of National Focal Points appointed by member states for the **Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists** took place at the National Library of Latvia on 6 October 2023. It offered a first opportunity for introduction and exchanges between focal points, as well as with the Council of Europe Campaign Secretariat, on the aims, roadmap and specific activities at the Campaign, at European and domestic level.

The meeting followed the Conference “The Pen is mightier than the sword? Meeting today’s challenges to freedom of expression and the safety of journalists”, co-organised by the Council of Europe and the Latvian Presidency to the Committee of Ministers. The Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists was launched in the margins of the conference.

During the meeting, the following points were raised:

- **Introduction of National Focal Points:** A *tour de table* was conducted with the National Focal Points from participating MS, during which the representatives introduced themselves, highlighted national measures aimed at safeguarding journalists’ safety, articulated current challenges, and expressed their expectations from the Campaign.
- **Introduction of the Campaign:** The Secretariat presented the scope of the Campaign, its roadmap, the role of the National Focal Points and that of the national coordination mechanisms responsible for implementing the Campaign at the national level. Emphasis was placed on the expectation that tangible measures to implement existing standards should be put in place as part of the Campaign. It was clarified that different countries would progress at varying speed, according to their national realities, needs and possibilities. National coordination structures – to be established for the Campaign - are to be assigned with the responsibility of identifying areas that could benefit from Campaign activities and, where applicable and useful, drafting national action plans or strategies for journalists’ safety, with the assistance and expertise of the Council of Europe. It was stressed that raising awareness through tailored messages aimed at all relevant actors involved in journalists’ safety was of paramount importance. Shifting societal attitudes towards journalists was deemed a societal-wide endeavour and one of the ultimate aims of the Campaign.

- **Existing best practices:** An interactive session with experts featured examples of existing safety initiatives for journalists in MS. This included:
 1. Peter ter Velde, Security Coordinator at NOS, Persveilig, the Netherlands, who provided insights into the mechanism established in the Netherlands to offer protection for the safety of journalists'. He referred to its different dimensions, including the involved actors, resources and coordination.
 2. Milan Spirovski, Project Researcher, Association of Journalists of Macedonia, presented the information on safety initiatives in North Macedonia. The Association provides legal and advocacy support to staff journalists, editors, media outlets and freelance journalists.
 3. Espen Brynsrud, Head of Department at the Norwegian Union of Journalists provided examples of safety initiatives in Norway, such as training programs for journalists including specific digital trainings to face cases of harassment, threats, and violence.

- **Presentation of Implementation Guides to Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 on the Protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors:** Mr Peter Noorlander, Expert in media law and human rights, delivered a presentation of the Implementation Guide "How to protect journalists and other media actors?" to "Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 on the Protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors". The Guide refers to practices developed in MS to enhance the protection of journalists and containing concrete suggestions for implementation of the all four pillars of the 2016 Recommendation, in support to actionable measures by member States.

- The Secretariat of the Campaign presented the "**Pocket Guide for key actions for improved safety of journalists**". The document is a synthetic tool aimed at providing support to State authorities in their effort to set up, implement and boost national frameworks for the effective protection of the safety of journalists and it is intended to serve for the elaboration of national action plans or strategies in the field, offering MS an overview of the most relevant areas of action from which they may select the measures needed to address their specific country situations.

Conclusions and Upcoming Actions:

- **Meeting documents:** Documents of the meeting, including the updated list of participants, as well as other relevant materials are to be circulated to all focal points and made available on the [Campaign's website](#).

- **Online Workspace:** The National Focal Points discussed the possibility of establishing an online platform for information sharing and discussion on national and other measures and issues related to the Campaign. The Campaign's Secretariat will explore its feasibility.

- **List of National Focal Points:** It was agreed to have the list of national Focal Points published on the Campaign's webpage, including the country, name/title and the represented authority.

- **Next Focal Points Meeting:** The date for the next meeting of Focal Points could align with the Steering Committee for Media and Information Society (CDMSI) plenary meeting in June 2024. This timing would allow members of both structures to participate and interact.
- **Communication on Campaign Progress:** In the next meeting, Focal Points will be invited to share information on the steps taken under the Campaign, notably the initiation of a national dialogue with relevant actors to establish cooperation mechanisms and structures for transposing the Campaign at the national level, and agreed plans and measures for the implementation of the 'national chapter' of the Campaign.
- **Thematic Meeting:** The date for first the first thematic meeting out of the series of four foreseen throughout the duration of the Campaign, focusing on the 'protection' pillar of the CM/Rec(2016)4 could be scheduled for around November 2024. An option is to hold it close to the Anti-SLAPPs conference, enabling focal points to participate in the conference as well.
- **National and other initiatives under the Campaign:** National Focal Points were encouraged to put forward proposals for further meetings, exchanges or their activities, at national, regional and/or European level, which would enable sharing promising practices, mutual support and communication and awareness-raising around the Campaign, as well as to engage in dialogue between themselves around the Campaign purposes. The Council of Europe will act as a facilitator and will provide, as appropriate, expertise and other forms of support.

Annex:

Agenda of the meeting

List of participants to the meeting

List of appointed National Focal Points

Role of National Focal Points

Coordination mechanisms

Background documents

CM/Rec(2016)4

Implementation guides to the CM/Rec(2016)4: first edition (2020) and extended version (2023)

Pocket Guide on key actions to enhance journalist safety

Campaign concept note

Campaign leaflet

1st Meeting of National Focal Points /

1^e réunion des points focaux nationaux

6 October 2023, Conference Hall A, National Library, Riga, Latvia /
6 octobre 2023, Conference Hall A, Bibliothèque nationale, Riga, Lettonie

List of participants / Liste de participant.e.s

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / POINTS FOCALUX NATIONAUX

ARMENIA / ARMENIE	Ms/Mme Anahit SIRUNYAN Head of Information and Digital Diplomacy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia / <i>Cheffe du service de l'information et de la diplomatie numérique du ministère des Affaires étrangères de l'Arménie</i>
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	Mr/M Gerhard HOLLEY Federal Chancellery, Media, Information Society, Law of Political Parties, Party Academy Funding / <i>Chancellerie fédérale, Société de l'information, Droit des partis politiques, Financement des partis</i>
AZERBAIDJAN/ AZERBAÏDJAN	Mr/M Rasim BAGHIROV , Head of international relations and strategic planning working group at the Media Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan/ <i>Chef du groupe de travail sur les relations internationales et la planification stratégique à l'Agence de développement des médias de la République d'Azerbaïdjan</i>
CROATIA / CROATIE	Ms/Mme Jasna VANICEK-FILA Director, Directorate for Media and Development of Cultural and Creative Industries / <i>Directeur, Direction des médias et du développement des industries culturelles et créatives, ministère de la Culture et des Médias</i>
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	Ms/Mme Stephania Theophania PANTZI STEPHANIDI Press and Information Officer, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Cyprus / <i>Attachée de presse et d'information, ministère de l'Intérieur,</i>

CZECH REPUBLIC / <i>REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE</i>	Mr/M Viktor KUNDRAK Director of the Department of Human Rights and Protection of Minorities / <i>Directeur du Service des droits de l'homme et de la protection des minorités</i>
FINLAND / <i>FINLANDE</i>	Mr/M Vesa KEKALE Counsellor (Information Environment), Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia / <i>Conseiller (Environnement de l'information), Service pour la Russie, l'Europe orientale et l'Asie centrale</i>
FRANCE	Ms/Mme Anne-Claire JUCOBIN Deputy Spokesperson of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs / <i>Adjointe à la Porte-parole du ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères</i>
GREECE / <i>GRECE</i>	Dr. Dimitrios GALAMATIS Secretary General of Communication and Media, Presidency of the Government / <i>Secrétaire général de la communication et des médias, Présidence du gouvernement</i> Ms/Mme Aikaterini POLYZOU Head of Department for Audiovisual Media and Internet, Presidency of the Government, General Secretariat of Communication and Media / <i>Cheffe du Service des médias audiovisuels et de l'Internet, Présidence du gouvernement, Secrétariat général de la communication et des médias</i>
IRELAND / <i>IRLANDE</i>	Ms/Mme Leah Ellen KIERAN Media Policy, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media / <i>Politique des médias, Service du tourisme, de la culture, des arts, du Gaeltacht, des sports et des médias</i>
ITALY / <i>ITALIE</i>	Ms/Mme Serena TONELLI Deputy Embassy Adviser / <i>Conseillère d'ambassade adjointe</i>
LATVIA / <i>LETTONIE</i>	Ms/Mme Anastasija TETARENKO-SUPE Latvian Association of Journalists, Member of the Ethics Commission / <i>Association lettone des journalistes, Membre de la Commission d'éthique</i>

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE	Ms/Mme Dzina DONAUSKAITE Director, Lithuanian Journalism Centre, NGO / <i>Directrice, Centre lituanien de journalisme, ONG</i>
LUXEMBOURG	Mr/M Dylan VERDIN-POL Chargé de mission to the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe / <i>Chargé de mission à la Représentation permanente du Luxembourg auprès du Conseil de l'Europe</i>
MONACO	M/Mr Serge ROBILLARD In charge of partnerships and institutional relationships / Minister of State, Digital Department <i>Chargé des partenariats et des relations institutionnelles/ Secrétaire d'État au ministère du Numérique</i>
MONTENEGRO	Mr/M Vukasin PUDAR Adviser in Directorate for media in Ministry of Culture and Media / <i>Conseiller à la Direction des médias au ministère de la Culture et des médias</i>
NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS	Ms/Mme Charlotte WOLFF Journalism Team Coordinator, Media department, Ministry of Education Culture and Science / <i>Coordinatrice de l'équipe de journalisme, département des médias, ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et des Sciences</i> Mr/M Arne BAKKER Policy advisor / <i>Conseiller politique</i>
NORWAY / NORVÈGE	Mr/M Espen BRYNSRUD Head of Department Norwegian Union of Journalists / <i>Chef de service, Syndicat norvégien des journalistes</i>
PORTUGAL	Mr/M Sérgio GOMES DA SILVA Director of International Relations and Communication at the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers / <i>Directeur des Services des Relations Internationales et Communication du Secrétariat-Général de la Présidence du Conseil des Ministres</i>
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	Mr/M Mircea TOMA National Audiovisual Council of Romania (CNA) Council Member / <i>Membre du Conseil national de l'audiovisuel de Roumanie (CNA)</i>

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC / <i>RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE</i>	Mr/M Zeljko Martyn SAMPOR National coordinator on protection of journalists and media pluralism policies / <i>Coordinateur national pour la protection des journalistes et le pluralisme des médias</i>
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UKRAINE	Ms/Mme Ganna KRASNOSTUP Director of the Department of Information Policy and Information Security of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine / <i>Directeur du Service de la politique de l'information et de la sécurité de l'information du ministère de la Culture et de la Politique de l'information de l'Ukraine</i>
UNITED KINGDOM / <i>ROYAUME-UNI</i>	Ms/Mme Janis MAKAREWICH-HALL Deputy Director for Radio, Advertising and Press, Department for Culture Media and Sport / <i>Directrice adjointe pour la radio, la publicité et la presse, Service de la culture, des médias et du sport</i>

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