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## **Joint Statement on the Extension of the mandate of Dunja Mijatovic as the Representative on the Freedom of the Media**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of Canada, Norway Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

We congratulate Dunja Mijatovic on the extension of her mandate for another three years until March 2016 and thank her for doing an outstanding job. We have always been proud of the institution of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Thanks to the efforts of Dunja Mijatovic since she took up the position in 2010, we note the growing relevance and importance of the OSCE as an international player in the promotion of media freedom. Working constructively with all 57 participating States she has demonstrated an objectivity and professionalism that adds to the credibility of her mandate. In addition, we are also impressed by the quality of her contributions in addressing new challenges, like the recent successful Internet 2013 Conference here in Vienna, which had an exceptional outreach effect.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the last few years, it has been difficult to achieve consensus among all 57 on further development of our commitments related to media freedom. This proves the importance of the institution of the Representative all the more, an institution whose value is based on its autonomy, integrity and ability to observe and assist all OSCE participating States in meeting their commitments in this field. We would like to reiterate our support for Dunja Mijatovic and the mandate of the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Ensuring freedom of media and expression, as well as the safety of media workers, are cornerstones of pluralistic and open democratic societies. We therefore reaffirm our full commitment to media freedom in all its forms and fora, offline and online. We must continue our efforts on this crucial topic, promote the full implementation of all our commitments, and further advance media freedom.

We request this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.