
MANDATE OF OSCE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE EXTENDED

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OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday welcomed this decision, the organization said in a statement.

"Dunja Mijatovic is a dedicated and tireless advocate for the promotion and protection of free expression and free media in the OSCE region and beyond, said Steinmeier and "emphasized that in these times of conflict and crises in particular, a strong and independent voice, holding firm to the cause of media freedom, was more important than ever," the statement said.

Mijatovic took office in March 2010 and was appointed for another three-year term in 2013.

I would like to thank Dunja Mijatović for her outstanding performance over the last six years and her readiness to continue this demanding work for an additional one, Steinmeier said, calling upon all OSCE participating states to support the representative in her efforts to fulfill the important mandate of observing media developments, as part of an early warning function and in helping OSCE participating states abide by their commitments to freedom of expression and free media.

Before serving as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mijatovic was Director of the Broadcasting Division of the Communication Regulatory Agency (CRA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Chairperson of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA). In 2015, Mijatovic was awarded the Medaille Charlemagne, the OSCE said.

"Following a transparent and inclusive selection procedure organized by the Serbian (2015) and German (2016) OSCE Chairmanships to select a successor to Mijatovic in due time, after the end of her second regular term, the 57 OSCE participating States could not reach consensus on any of the candidates. The German Chairmanship will continue its efforts to reach consensus on a new representative on Freedom of the Media by the end of 2016," the OSCE statement said.

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