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EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
PRESS & MEDIA
FREEDOM

Press Freedom and Media Pluralism: How to Reboot an Essential EU Pillar

Agenda

Wednesday, 16 May 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

09:00 – 17:00 Hilton Sofia Hotel

09.00 - 09.30 REGISTRATION & COFFEE

09.30 - 10.30 SESSION 1. Opening remarks by hosts, organizers and official guests

H.E. Rumen Radev, President of Bulgaria *(to be confirmed)*

Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner Digital Economy and Society *(to be confirmed)*

Theodore Zahov, Chairman of Union of Publishers in Bulgaria, Co-publisher and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Economedica AD

Valdo Lehari Jr., ENPA Vice-President, CEO and Publisher of Reutlinger General-Anzeiger Verlag in Germany;

Mogens Blicher Bjerregård, EFJ President, Journalist *(to be confirmed)*

Q&A Session: 15 mins

10.30 - 12.00 SESSION 2. Future of the Media in the EU: challenges and opportunities

Pauline Adès-Mével, Head of the European Union-Balkans Office, Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Matthijs Berman, Principal Adviser to the OSCE

Mark Dekan, CEO Ringier Axel Springer Media AG *(to be confirmed)*

Michal Boni, MEP (EPP/PL)

Q&A Session: 15 mins

12.00 - 12.15 COFFEE BREAK

12.15 - 13.45 SESSION 3. Pressures on Media Freedom in the EU: case studies (Part I)

Session dedicated to Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary

Tomasz Piatek, Investigative Journalist, Author of the book, 'Macierewicz and his Secrets' *Poland*

Mirosław Wróblewski, Director of the Department of Constitutional, International and European Law, Office of the Polish Ombudsman, *Poland*

Bartosz Wielinski, Foreign Editor of Gazeta Wyborcza, *Poland*

Václav Štětka, Researcher and Expert on Media policies, Loughborough University, *Czech Republic*

Gabor Polyak, Director of Mertek Media Monitor, *Hungary*

Benedek Javor, MEP (Greens/HU), *Hungary (to be confirmed)*

Moderated by: **Silvia Chocarro**, Global Advocacy Strategist, IFEX

Q&A Session: 15 mins

13.45 - 14.30 LUNCH

14.30 - 16.00 SESSION 4. Pressures on Media Freedom in the EU: case studies (Part II)

Session dedicated to Bulgaria, Slovakia, Malta and Serbia.

Alexander Kashamov, Attorney-at-law, Head of the Legal Team of Access to Information Programme, *Bulgaria*

Matthew Caruana Galizia, Journalist at International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) *Malta*; the son of the former Maltese journalist, writer, and anti-corruption activist Daphne Caruana Galizia,

Pavol Szalai, Senior Editor at Euractiv.sk, *Slovakia*

Zoran Sekulic, President of Managing Board of the Serbian Newspaper Publishers Association; Owner and Editor in Chief of News Agency FoNet, *Serbia*

Moderated by: **Ivan Bedrov**, investigative journalist, *Bulgaria (to be confirmed)*

Q&A Session: 15 mins

16.00 - 17:00 SESSION 5. Sofia Declaration on Media Freedom in Europe

Release of Sofia Declaration on Media Freedom in Europe with concrete policy recommendations to encourage the independence and sustainability of the press in EU member states and its candidates.

17:00 -17:30 SESSION 6. Closing remarks

17.30 PRESS CONFERENCE

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