

# OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media: Initiatives to Ensure Media Freedom

**OSCE**

The Representative on  
Freedom of the Media



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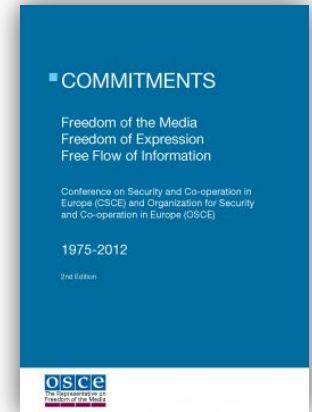
# OSCE Commitments

- 1975 Helsinki Final Act
- 1983 Concluding Document of the Madrid Meeting
- 1986 CSCE Vienna Follow-up Meeting
- 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe
- 1992 The Challenges of Change (CSCE Summit Helsinki)
- 1993 Decisions of the Rome Council Meeting
- 1994 Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era (CSCE Summit Budapest)
- 1996 OSCE Summit, Lisbon
- 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit
- 2004 Sofia Ministerial Council



# OSCE Commitments

- Pluralism
- Free Flow of Information
- Facilitating the Work of Journalists
- Exchange of Information between States
- No Interference by Public Authorities
- Access to Media for all during Elections
- Restrictions prescribed by Law & Necessity in a Democracy
- Condemn Attacks and Harassment
- Freedom to use all Sources of Information
- Ensure Access for and by Minorities (with ODIHR, HCHM)
- Transparency in Public Affairs



# RFOM - Who We Are

## OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

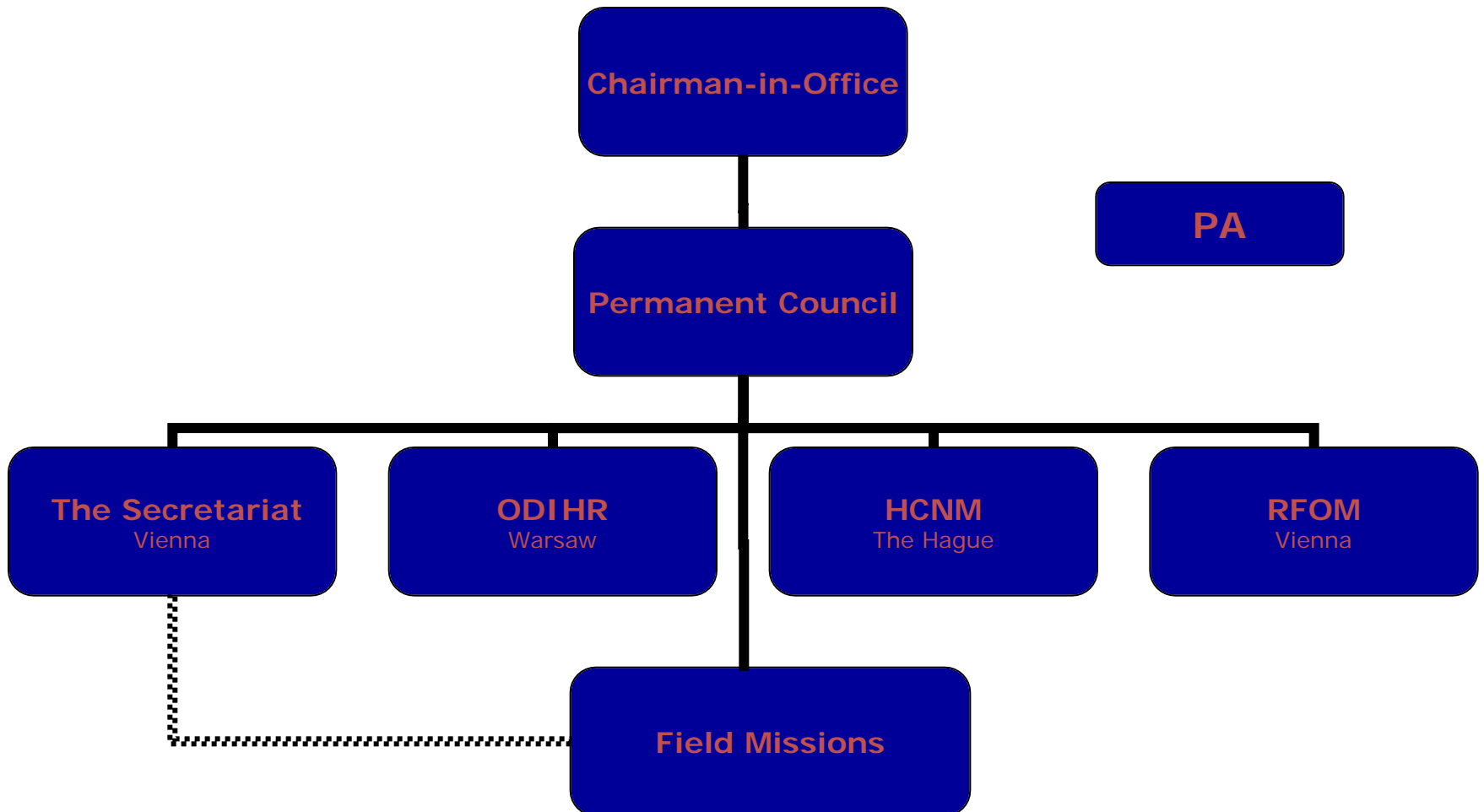
- PC Decision No.193 of November 1997
- Office begins operating in January 1998
- International staff of 13 from 10 nations



### Representatives

- 1998 – 2003 Freimut Duve (Germany)
- 2004 – 2010 Miklós Haraszti (Hungary)
- Since 2010 Dunja Mijatović (BiH)

# RFOM - Who We Are



# RFOM - Who We Are

## RFOM Budget:

z 2011: 1.41 m. of 150.8 m. EUR

z 2012: 1.39 m. of 148.1 m. EUR

z 2013: 1.45 m. of 144.8 m. EUR

z 2014: 1.48 m. EUR

z 1% of total OSCE budget

z Plus extra-budgetary contributions

# RFOM - Who We Are

## MANDATE

*PC Decision No. 193, November 1997*

- Participating States, reaffirming **OSCE Principles and Commitments**, established RFOM Mandate and Independent Office
- **OBSERVING** relevant media development in all participating States
- **ASSISTING** participating States in furthering of free, independent and pluralistic media
- Assuming **Early-Warning Function**
- **Rapid Response** to non-compliance with OSCE principles
- Close **Co-operation** with OSCE structures as well as other IGOs and NGOs



# RFOM – What We Do

## Representative on Freedom of the Media in Action

- Safety of Journalists
- Media Pluralism
- Media Freedom on the Internet
- Media Legislation
- Decriminalization of Defamation
- Digital Switchover
- Media Self-Regulation
- Freedom of Information / Access to Information
- Protection of Confidential Sources





# Safety of Journalists

- Physical Violence
  - Impunity
  - Psychological Pressure
  - Imprisonment
  - Attacks on Media Property
  - Arbitrary Police Action
  - Fear and Intimidation
- 
- All these amount to Censorship & Self-Censorship



# Legal Restrictions



- Criminal Defamation Laws
- Anti-Terror Laws
- National Criminal Code / National Security
- Problematic Terminology: “Extremism”, “Hooliganism”
- Excessive Monetary Fines
- Reputation of Public Officials
- Imprisonment is Disproportionate Punishment for Speech!
- ECtHR Case Law (for setting standards)
- “CHILLING EFFECT”

# Free Speech on the Internet

- Pluralism
- Internet Regulation
- Protection of Minors, Fight Racism, Incitement to Hatred, Cybercrime
- Internet Laws
- Blocking and Filtering is over-restrictive
- Multi-Stakeholder Approach (UN IGF)
- Internet Literacy



## RFOM Mandate

- Promote FoE & Access to the Internet
- Advocate and promote OSCE principles and commitments, including early warning when laws or other measures are enforced in a manner which can lead to impeding the expression of alternative opinions and views

*(Sofia, 2004, Annex to PC Decision No. 12/04)*

## Further Information

[www.osce.org/fom](http://www.osce.org/fom)

[www.twitter.com/osce\\_rfom](https://www.twitter.com/osce_rfom)

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