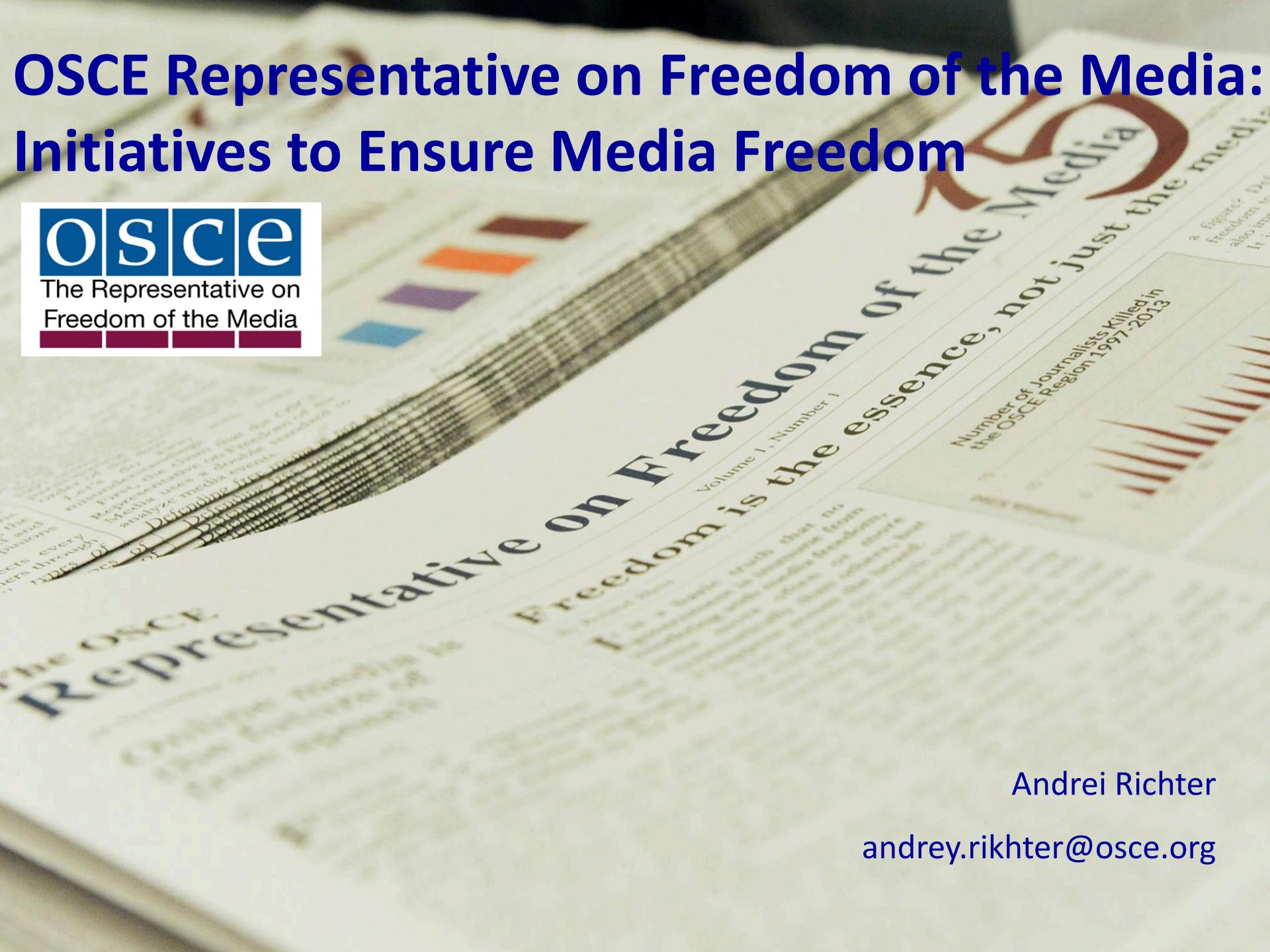


OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media: Initiatives to Ensure Media Freedom

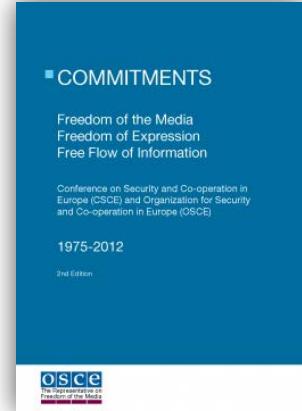


Andrei Richter

andrey.rikhter@osce.org

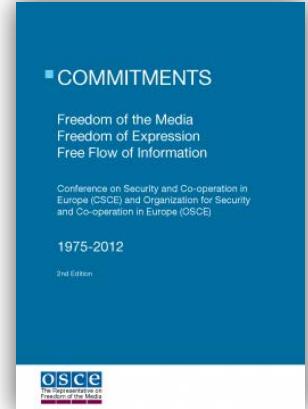
OSCE Commitments

- 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

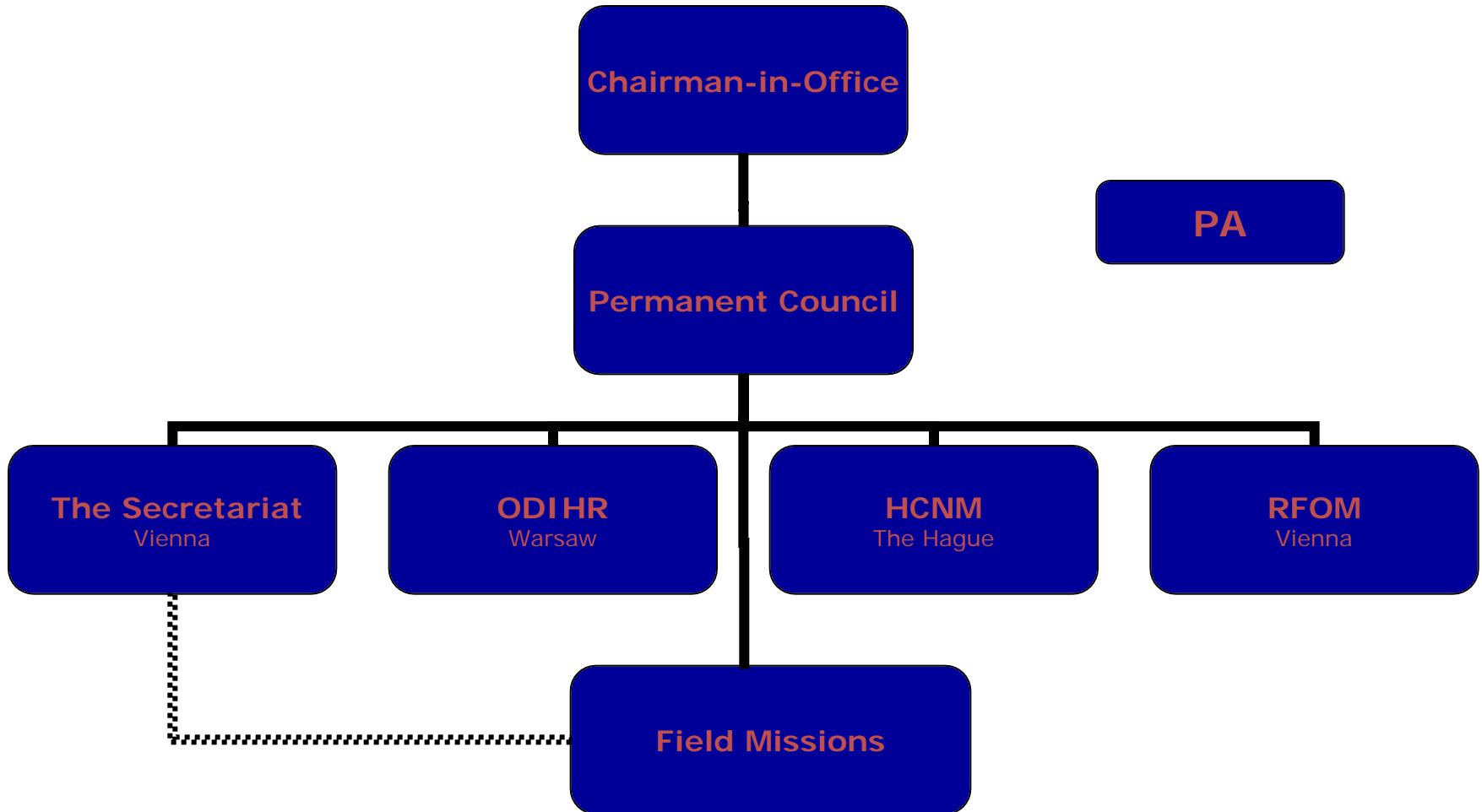
- PC Decision No.193 of November 1997
- Office begins operating in January 1998
- International staff of 13 from 10 nations



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



The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
Factsheet

Why Free Media Matters

Freedom of expression and freedom of the media are basic human rights.

No nation can hope to develop democratically without the free expression, publication and distribution of ideas and opinions. Democratic societies only can function sustainably when people are well informed, are able to access and share information freely and can debate ideas.

Free media, unfettered by government control, promotes a free exchange of views which can help reduce international tensions and prevent conflicts.

Freedom of the media is indispensable in the digital age. New media, including the Internet, mobile communications and other fast-developing technologies, have supplemented, but not supplanted, traditional media in protecting democracy, peace and stability.

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

www.twitter.com/osce_rfom

www.facebook.com/osce.rfom

www.youtube.com/osce

