

Guillaume Sieminski

WELCOMING REMARKS

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Friends,

First let me extend a warm welcome to all of you on behalf of our Head of Mission Ambassador Roy Reeve who is unable to be here with us today.

This is the second time this regional conference is taking place in Tbilisi and the Mission is very pleased to be facilitating this conference again. We do look forward to the day when it will be possible for all of us to meet in either Baku or Yerevan! This is after all the OSCE and we do not lose hope.

I do hope that this meeting will provide “three neighbors” with an opportunity to talk about common issues, common problems, and common challenges.

As someone who just moved to the Caucasus seven months ago I can assure you that I appreciate more and more the challenges faced by Caucasian journalists on a daily basis. This is not an easy region. Often your work is difficult and stressful. Sometimes it is downright dangerous.

Hopefully this conference will be an opportunity for all of you to recharge your batteries, to realize again that you have colleagues out there who face similar challenges and to acquire some new knowledge that will make you better at your work.

Good luck and we look forward to your presentations!

Head of Human Dimension, OSCE Mission to Georgia