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Permanent Mission of Hungary to the OSCE

**STATEMENT IN REPOSE TO THE REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA
Vienna, 21 June 2012**

As delivered by Ambassador Miklós Boros

Mr. Chairperson,

Hungary would like to thank the Representative on Freedom of the Media for her report to the Permanent Council. Hungary highly values her work and fully shares the views expressed by Denmark on behalf of the European Union in response to today's presentation. As the issue of the Hungarian media legislation was raised in the report of the Ms. Mijatović and by the US delegation, let me add the following in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

As we have stated in the Permanent Council in January the Government of Hungary is open to constructive dialogue on legislative changes, including the media legislation. In the past months we have been in regular exchange with the RFOM and have set out our views in detail on the issue of the media legislation. We have also been engaged in a constructive dialogue with the Council of Europe on the subject.

The Constitutional Court of Hungary has examined the media legislation in detail and in its ruling in December 2011, stated that the new regulation, as far as its goals and regulatory system are concerned, is not unconstitutional and is in line with the values of democratic society, at the same time mandating a number of specific changes. The decision of the Constitutional Court has been welcomed by the Representative on the Freedom of the Media.

In line with the ruling of the Constitutional Court the Parliament has reviewed and amended the media legislation. Speaker of the Parliament László Kövér provided detailed information to the RFOM on the legislative changes, which include: providing broader protection of sources, narrowing the scope of authority of the Media Commissioner with regard to the investigation of complaints concerning media and press matters, supporting and acknowledging self-regulation of media service providers, clarifying the granting of broadcasting rights, strengthening the autonomy of the Media and Infocommunications Authority and clarifying the election and competence of the president of the Media Council. These changes have been welcomed by the RFOM.

I would also like to point out that the President of the Republic János Áder, while indicating that he agrees with the substance of the legislation has sent back the act approved by Parliament to allow for a more thorough debate on the amendments proposed.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.