



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Malta 2024**

MC.DEC/5/24
6 December 2024

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Thirty-First Meeting
MC(31) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 5/24
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON
FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Reaffirming the necessity that the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media carries out his functions in full compliance with the OSCE principles, commitments and decisions as well as with the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/23 the term of office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Teresa Ribeiro, came to an end on 3 September 2024,

Decides to appoint Mr. Jan Braathu as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of three years with effect from 6 December 2024.

MC.DEC/5/24
6 December 2024
Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision for the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), the United States would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Mr. Jan Braathu. We fully respect the autonomy and support the work of the RFOM.

Unfortunately, in recent years, there has been pressure from some participating States to weaken the OSCE’s autonomous institutions and cut resources for them. Nothing in this decision should be interpreted to diminish the autonomy of or restrict the work of the RFOM in the full exercise of his or her mandate.

Finally, the United States regrets that participating States failed to adopt this decision before the previous RFOM’s term expired on 3 September. We underscore that it is the OSCE participating States which have adopted the OSCE’s principles, commitments and decisions. It is first and foremost the responsibility of the participating States to implement them.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and that it be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.”

MC.DEC/5/24
6 December 2024
Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Iceland (also on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Sweden, and Switzerland):

“In relation to the decision on the appointment of the of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), we would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and Iceland:

We reiterate our gratitude to Malta’s Chairmanship for their leadership in forging consensus on critical issues, thereby enhancing the OSCE’s effectiveness.

We regret that consensus on the leadership of the Organization could not be reached earlier, leading to extended vacancies in these critical positions. This should not set a precedent for future similar decisions.

We reiterate the importance of co-operative decisions on the leadership of the Organization and the autonomous institutions that should be based on individual candidates and their ability to support OSCE principles and commitments. As participating States, we should avoid politicization of the consensus-based process and return to the spirit of multilateralism that guides our collaborative decision process.

Furthermore, we as participating States should strive to ensure gender equality in the leadership of the Organization, including by putting forward more women as candidates.

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Jan Braathu as Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM). We reiterate our commitment to support the work and autonomy of the RFOM. We reaffirm our expectation, as set out in Permanent Council Decision No. 193, that the RFOM should be impartial, independent and objective.

In recent years, some participating States have misused consensus to prevent the allocation of resources to the third dimension. We reiterate our position that the OSCE should have adequate resources to fulfil its mandate across all three dimensions.

I would request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and included in the journal of the day.”

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Attachment 3

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United Kingdom:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the approval of the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM), the United Kingdom would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United Kingdom joins the consensus on the appointment of Mr. Jan Braathu as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and wishes him every success in the role. The United Kingdom fully respects the autonomy of the RFOM and calls on all participating States to offer their full support to the new OSCE Representative in taking forward his mandate. We continue to urge participating States to ensure the RFOM is adequately financed to fulfil its mandate.

We note that, alongside the appointments to other OSCE leadership positions, this decision supports the predictability and stability of the OSCE over the coming three years.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to this decision and included in the journal of the day.”