COMMISSION ON MEDIA POLICY
2015
BUCHAREST
Saturday 7 November 2015
(pre-event SEEMF 5 and 6 November)

JW Marriott Grand Hotel, Calea 13 Septembrie 90, Bucharest, Romania

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Note: No break.
Coffee and tea will be served in the conference room during the event.
EXPLAINING EVENTS AND THE BIG PICTURE

WE SEE IN THE NEWS AN ENORMOUS NUMBER OF CATASTROPHES. MAINLY THEY COME FROM POLITICAL CAUSES: COLLAPSE OF A NATION’S ECONOMY, DRIVING OUT ETHNIC GROUPS BY FORCE, SEEKING EMPIRE, UPRISING AGAINST INEQUALITY: MASSES OF REFUGEES, CORPSES, STARVATION, AND ATROCITIES.

ALL HAVE COMPLICATED ORIGINS. ALL ARE HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME.

HOW CAN JOURNALISTS PROVIDE UNBIASED, ACCURATE, TIMELY, COVERAGE WITH CONTEXT? IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO REPORT MORE DEEPLY THAN JUST NUMBERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

8.45-9.00
Welcome coffee

9:00-9:30
Welcome by:
Ellen Mickiewicz, co-chair, professor, Duke University and fellow of The Carter Center, Durham
Erhard Busek, co-chair, former Vice Chancellor of Austria, former Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South East Europe, Coordinator of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and Chairman of the Institute for Danube Region and Central Europe, Vienna
Oliver Vujovic, SEEMO
Boris Bergant, SEEMO
Jane Whyatt, European Center for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF), Leipzig

Introduction of Participants
Procedures for participation

9:30-10:30
SESSION I
ISSUES INSIDE RUSSIA AND UKRAINE
What are the problems, challenges, successes, failures in both countries: for example, in procedures for governing; in public opinion and public support, in political parties, in economics, in law?

Chair: Ellen Mickiewicz
Panel:
Alexander Bratersky, senior foreign policy correspondent, gazeta.ru, Moscow
Sonia Koshkina, Editor-in-chief of online media LB.ua, Ukraine, host, political show TV 24, Ukraine

10:30-11:30
SESSION II
ECONOMIC CONNECTIONS OR ECONOMIC INTERFERENCE?
THE JOURNALIST'S DILEMMA: HOW OR IF TO APPROACH THESE QUESTIONS? DO THEY REQUIRE EXPERTS? ARE HISTORICAL CONTEXTS OF DEPTH AVAILABLE TO JOURNALISTS? DOES IT MATTER? How far does Europe stretch? Regarding Freedom of the Press: Do countries in Europe have the capacity and “permission” to shape their own coverage if they are limited by threats the government can not or does not want to control? Or: if foreign companies own (or are the major investors of) important media outlets? Does the EU monetary union help its members’ economies or limit members’ flexibility to make their own solutions?

Chair: Erhard Busek
Panel:
Alberto Spampinato, direttore de Ossigeno per l'Informazione, Roma
Fivos Karzis, Journalist and advisor, Athens
Paul Radu investigative journalist, Bucharest

11:30-12:30
SESSION III
REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS, AND THE PRESS
The vast sea of displaced persons and refugees: whose burden? Whose heroism? Whose failure? Can the media fairly cover the case of the immigrants as well as the (sometimes violent and always politically sensitive) sentiments and movements at home?

Chair: Ellen Mickiewicz
Panel:
Radomir Licina, Danas Daily, Belgrade
Bulent Mumay Editor/Coordinator, Hürriyet Online, Istanbul
Boris Bergant, EBU Advisor / SEEMO Board, Geneva-Ljubljana-Vienna
Alina Radu, CEO and founder, Ziарул де Garda, Chisinau

12:30-13:00
WORKING LUNCH

13:00-13:30
Press Freedom in Europe /Refugees in Europe and work of ECPMF in Europe by Jane Whyatt, ECPMF, Leipzig

13:30-13:45
ERHARD BUSEK AWARD FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING 2015 PRESENTATION

13:45-14.30
The Honorable Danilo Türk, former president of Slovenia, Ljubljana
Reflections on Future Political Crises and Today’s Policies

14:00-14:30 Discussion with H.E. Danilo Türk

14:30-15:30 SESSION IV
THE RETURN OF RELIGION-BASED DIVISIONS.
Is compromise—necessary for democracy—possible for a country or region of divided religious communities? How can journalists understand “the other”? How can journalists remove bias: their own and that of their employers and colleagues?

Chair: Erhard Busek and introduction to issue
Panel:
Zrinka Zrinka Vrabec-Mojzes, former advisor to President of Croatia, Zagreb
Marco Gombacci, The European Post/Brussels and Trieste

15:30-16:45 RECOMMENDATIONS
Chair: Ellen Mickiewicz

16:45-17:00 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT.