

Saturday, 18 October 2014

**Commission on Media Policy:
Strengthening the Press under Pressure of War and Repression**
supported by M6 Educational Centre Skopje (810 Street, Skopje, +389 2 3109 226)



The Commission on Media Policy was founded under the name "Commission on Radio and Television Policy" to encourage democratic policies and practices. Today, the Commission brings together media practitioners, managers, and experts in both the public and private sectors from more than 25 countries in Central, East, Southeast, and West Europe and the United States to discuss and debate alternatives for media policymaking. The Commission was founded by former US president Jimmy Carter in 1990. The idea for its creation was born in the mid-1980s when Prof. Dr. Ellen Mickiewicz and former President Carter discovered the changes in the way the Soviet Union used television in comparison to the past policy while working on issues of international security and arms control. The first official Commission Meeting took place in the autumn of 1991 bringing together media practitioners, experts, and policymakers from both the United States and Russia. Since that date, the Commission meets annually, discusses the freedom, role, and future of the media in the world and makes substantive recommendations on a range of policy issues. During the years, the Commission's focus expanded to include East and West Europe and the United States, as well as the European part of the former Soviet Union, which opened access to a far broader range of models with which to consider policies for democracy and media. The Commission has a number of publications designed for use by journalists, scholars, and others interested in the relationship of democracy and the media. The guidebooks of the commission represent one of its most often noted results. The first of these, Television and Elections, is available in more than a dozen languages and is widely used in parliamentary debates and decision-making processes. Three additional guidebooks have been published, Television/Radio News and Minorities, Television, Radio and Privatisation, and Television Autonomy and the State. Ellen Mickiewicz, Director of the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy at Duke University, and Erhard Busek, former Vice Chancellor of Austria, former Coordinator of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, co-chair the Commission's annual meetings. SEEMO is organising and coordinating the event since 2013

08:30

Meeting in the hotel lobbies and transfer to the M6 Educational Centre

09:30 – 10:00	Welcome and Opening Speeches	
	Oliver Vujovic	Secretary General, South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), Vienna
	Saso Ordanoski	Director of Media and Public Affairs, VeVe Group, Skopje
	Svetozar Janevski	Founder, M6 Educational Centre, Skopje
	Dimitar Osmanli	Executive Director, M6 Educational Centre, Skopje
	Erhard Busek	Chairperson SECI / IDM, Vienna
	Ellen Mickiewicz	Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, Duke Sanford School, Durham

10:00 – 11:00	On the Ground <i>How can a journalist cover hostilities accurately when bullets are flying?</i>	
<p>How can a journalist cover hostilities accurately when bullets are flying and tell the readers the <i>whole</i> story, putting it in fair and honest context? What happens to accuracy if reporting has to be done from a distance, out of danger? Is it enough to get a local person in the area of hostilities to send in information—even if the local information source has no experience in reporting? Pictures are pouring in; YouTube is full of short, dramatic scenes from war. Should reporters comment on pictures they believe unreliable—i.e. warn their consumers? Or, is the principle “the more, the better?” If a journalist comments on pictures, what kind should they choose to write/talk about? Is it irresponsible to say: “let the public make up its mind” if atrocities are shown but perhaps fabricated?</p>		
Chairperson	Erhard Busek	Chairperson SECI / IDM, Vienna
Panelist	Agron Bajrami	Editor-in-chief, Koha Ditore daily, Pristina
	Ivan Rodionov	Editor-in-chief, Ruptly.tv agency / Russia Today, Berlin
	Yevgen Fedchenko	Director, Mohyla school of journalism/StopFake.org, Kyiv
Discussion: Q & A		

11:00 – 11:15	Coffee
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11:15 – 12:15	Special session with Danilo Türk , President of Slovenia 2007-2012 Chairpersons: Boris Bergant, SEEMO, and Danilo Türk
<p>Some ideas that might be covered in discussion after Dr. Tuerck’s remarks. Which two media in any country or place [radio, government or public TV, internet, newspaper] did the best reporting on Ukraine? What set them apart? Why did that happen? Why did it not happen elsewhere?</p>	

12:15 – 12:45	International organisations and EU institutions <i>How can they be activated for support?</i>	
How can international organizations and European institutes be activated to support us: how can we broaden the audience for our concerns on ways to keep peace in general?		
Chairperson	Ellen Mickiewicz	Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, Duke Sanford School, Durham
Panelists	Shpresa Mulliqi	OSCE, Pristina
	Zrinka Vrabec Mojzes	Advisor to the President of Croatia, Zagreb
Discussion: Q & A		

12:45 – 13:00	Presentation of the Dr. Erhard Busek SEEMO Award for Better Understanding to Nenad Sebek by Erhard Busek and Boris Bergant	
13:00 – 13:45	Working Lunch	

13:45 – 14:45	Media Situation in Ukraine	
Presentations by journalists from Ukraine		
Chairperson	Ellen Mickiewicz	Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, Duke Sanford School, Durham
Presentations	Roman Skrypin	Founder of Hromadske.TV, chief of the Ukrainian Independent media union, Kyiv
	Diana Dutsyk	Executive director of Telekrytyka and Deputy Head of Kyiv-Mohyla School of Journalism, Kyiv
	Yevgen Fedchenko	Mohyla school of journalism/StopFake.org, Kyiv
	Anna Babinets	Investigative journalist, Ukrainian weekly, Slidstvo info, TBi, Hromadske.TV, Kyiv
	Denis Kazanskyi	Journalist and blogger from Donetsk, Ukrayinskyi Tyzhden Magazine, Kyiv
	Mykhailo Shmatov	National Television Company of Ukraine, Kyiv
	Tetyana Kotyuzhynska	Media lawyer and Secretary of National Journalist Union, Kyiv
	Oleksiy Pogorelov	General Director of Ukrainian Association of Periodic Press Publishers, Kyiv
Discussion: Q & A		

14:45 – 15:30	Ombudspersons and Press Councils <i>Future evaluation and protection</i>	
Ombudsmen: How effective are they in your experience and your country? Can the ombudsmen do their job under limited freedom of the press? Press Council: How effective are they? Who should be members and how to keep it both representative and small enough to make decisions? Is there a danger that the rules of Press Councils can be used by hostile governments against the press and charge the press with violating its rules? Solidarity of journalists: can it grow? Can it protect?		
Chairperson	Ellen Mickiewicz	Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, Duke Sanford School, Durham
Panelists	Radomir Licina	Senior editor, Danas daily, Belgrade
	Aidan White	Director, Ethical Journalism Network, London
	Marina Constantinoiu	Editor-in-Chief, Jurnalul National, Bucharest
Discussion: Q & A		
15:30 – 16:00	Conclusions and Recommendations	