



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 10, 2025

Representative Braathu, dear Jan, welcome back to the Permanent Council, in your new, critical role, and thank you very much for your report. I also want to acknowledge your terrific team that did a wonderful job as we awaited your appointment.

The Trump Administration has made U.S. support for free expression clear. On his first day in office, President Trump signed an executive order that reiterated that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the right to freedom of speech, which includes expressing oneself in the public square, and guards against unlawful interference by the government. The executive order was quite clear: Government censorship of free expression is intolerable in a free society. The Trump Administration opposes European Union regulation that influences practice and principles of free expression established outside its borders.

Indeed free expression is a hallmark of a free society. As Vice President Vance has said, shutting down media is a surefire way to destroy democracy. Both leading political parties in Poland have, at times in the past, viewed opposition-aligned media outlets as fair game. Media should not be intimidated or silenced by a government that does not agree with them.

The Trump Administration is also troubled by European efforts to use the Digital Services Act and other means to penalize free speech platforms that refuse to censor content. These platforms – many of which are American companies owned and operated by American citizens – are a primary means of information sharing and news publication for journalists and citizens alike. Such coercive action by the EU is inconsistent with fundamental democratic values. The United States will take steps to ensure that American companies are not strong-armed into enforcing a European censorship regime that is harmful to American interests, European interests, and the world.

Allowing our citizens to speak their minds will make all countries stronger. The United States looks forward to partnering with the RFoM and likeminded states to champion freedom of expression for all.

We echo Representative Braathu’s call for all participating States to follow up on their commitments to uphold their international obligations and OSCE commitments. At the same time, we call on all participating States to work swiftly to adopt a Unified Budget which allows all OSCE entities to carry out the functions we have assigned to them.

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