Interparliamentary Conference

UPHOLDING THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, INCLUDING MEDIA FREEDOM, IN THE EU AND BEYOND
with Members of the European Parliament and the Pre-Accession Countries' Parliaments

Organised by the European Parliament
(Democracy Support and Election Co-ordination Group in cooperation with the Committees on Culture and Education, on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and on Foreign Affairs)

and the Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Prague, 14-15 June 2018

Venue: Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic (Room 205, Sněmovní 1)

Prague (Czech Republic)

PROGRAMME
Thursday, 14 June

Arrival and registration of the participants

20:00 – 22:00 Welcome reception and dinner offered by the Czech Parliament
(Venue: Grand Reception Hall of the Czech Parliament, Sněmovní 4)

Friday, 15 June

09:00 Opening of the inter-parliamentary conference

In the Chair: Mr Ondřej Benešík, MP, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic and Ms Barbara Spinelli, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

09:00 – 09:15 Opening words by the Chairs

09:15 – 09:35 Welcome address

Mr Radek Vondráček, MP, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

09:35 – 09:55 Keynote speech

Mr Harlem Désir, Representative on Freedom of the Media, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

09:55 – 10:55 The role of the media in the political debate

Ms Eleni Theocharous, MEP, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Mr Jaroslav Bžoch, MP, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Member of the Committee on European Affairs, Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Mr Jan Macháček, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Institute for Politics and Society, Czech Republic

Questions and debate

10:55 – 11:20 Coffee break
11:20 – 12:40  Media ownership, transparency and regulation

Ms Michaela Šojdrová, MEP, Member of the Committee on Culture and Education and of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

Mr Oldřich Kužílek, Opened Society, NGO, Czech Republic

Mr Ondřej Benešík, MP, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Ms Silvia Grundmann, Head of the Media and Internet Division, Council of Europe

Questions and debate

12:40 – 13:15  Dealing with fake news and disinformation

Ms Barbara Spinelli, MEP, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Rapporteur on Media pluralism and media freedom in the European Union

Mr Jan Lipavský, MP, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Ms Marijana Bojanić, CEO, Vijesti, Montenegro (tbc)

Questions and debate

13:15 – 14:15  Working lunch
(Venue: Meeting room foyer)

In the Chair: Mr Tomáš Zdechovsky, MEP, Member of the Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and on Budgetary Control

14:15 – 15:10  Civil society as a source of information and a support for political reform

Mr Tomáš Zdechovsky, MEP, Member of the Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and on Budgetary Control

Mr Leo Luzar, MP, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Freedom of Expression and Media Freedom, Member of the Committee on Petitions, Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Ms Jeta Xharra, Executive Director, BIRN (Balkan Investigative Reporting Network)

Mr Martin Svárovský, Policy Planning Department, Security and Multilateral Affairs Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Questions and debate
### 15:10 – 16:00

**Individual freedoms, privacy, encryption, social media tracking, defamation law**

- **Mr Jiří Payne**, MEP, Substitute Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and of the Subcommittee on Human Rights
- **Mr František Kopřiva**, MP, Member of the Committee on European Affairs, Chamber of Deputies in the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- **Pr Pier Luigi Parcu**, Director of the Centre for media pluralism and media freedom, European University Institute

Questions and debate

### 16:00 – 16:20

**Coffee break**

### In the Chair:

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>16:20 – 17:20</td>
<td><strong>Ensuring the protection of journalists and whistle-blowers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Milica Andrijasević, Online communication expert, Association of Journalists, Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<td>Ms Pauline Adès-Mével, Head of EU-Balkans desk, Reporters sans Frontières</td>
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<td>Questions and debate</td>
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### 17:20 – 17:30

**Closing remarks by the Co-Chairs**

### 17:30

**End of the conference**