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24 May 2016

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

Upholding media independence, investigative journalism and editorial integrity

Programme of the hearing of 1 June 2016 (item 5 of the agenda)

The hearing is held in the framework of the committee work for the preparation of the following reports in the field of media freedom:

- "Parliamentary scrutiny over corruption: parliamentary co-operation with investigative media" (rapporteur: Ms Gülsün Bilgehan, Turkey, SOC)
- "New methods of political influence over independent journalism" (rapporteur: Ms Vesna Marjanović, Serbia, SOC)
- "Attacks against journalists and media freedom in Europe" (rapporteur: Mr Volodymyr Arieu, Ukraine, EPP/CD)
- "The protection of editorial integrity" (rapporteur: Mr John Howell, United Kingdom, EC)
- "The status of journalists in Europe" (rapporteur: Ms Elvira Dobrinski-Weiß, Germany, SOC)

(9.30 a.m.) Opening by Mr Volodymyr Arieu, Chairperson of the committee

(9.35 a.m.) Presentations by:

- Ms Eloïse Lebourg, investigative journalists, manager of Mediacoop, France - *Strengthening the protection of whistle-blowers*
- Mr Jérôme Bouvier, Advisor in charge of press and information professions, media literacy and diversity, Ministry on Culture and Communication, France (tbc) - *A new French legislation on media independence and protection of whistle-blowers*

(9.55 a.m.) Questions and debate

(10.45 a.m.) Presentations by:

- Mr Ricardo Gutierrez, Secretary General of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), Brussels - *Media independence and financial ties between public authorities and media*
- Ms Jane Whyatt, Project Manager, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF), Leipzig - *Appointment policies and independence of public service broadcasters*

(11.05 a.m.) Questions and debate

(11.55 a.m.) Summing up by:

- Ms Marcella Smit, Ombudsman at the Dutch public broadcaster NOS, journalism teacher at the State University of Groningen - *Towards a sound eco-system for media independence, investigative journalism and editorial integrity*

(12.00) Final remarks by rapporteurs and closing of the hearing by the Chairperson of the committee

Reference documents

- Addendum to the draft minutes of the meeting held in Paris on 3 and 4 December 2015
- Resolution 2066 (2015) Media responsibility and ethics in a changing media environment
- Resolution 2060 (2015) Improving the protection of whistle-blowers
- Recommendation 1950 (2011) The protection of journalists' sources
- Resolution 1729 (2010) Protection of "whistle-blowers"
- Recommendation 1878 (2009) Funding of public service broadcasting