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**Statement by participants at the 'Public Service Media and Democracy' Conference.  
10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Prague.**

Parliamentarians, media professionals, regulators, legal experts and other participants at a conference on Public Service Media and Democracy, hosted by the Czech Parliament in Prague, and organized by the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Czech Television and the European Broadcasting Union, express deep concern about the situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's PSM and appeal to Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to undertake urgent measures to ensure sustainable funding for BHRT in order to save this important institution.

BHRT plays a crucial role in the democratic process, for building national identity and promoting social cohesion and tolerance in the divided post-war society. Failure to adopt respective provisions and to ensure stable, adequate and independent funding for BHRT will result in the closure of this institution and will create a serious precedent in Europe. This would seriously damage the democratic processes in the country and the association process with the European Union.

Independent, sustainable and credible PSM is essential for democracy.