



SDP



The Media as Public Service

Warsaw, 11-12 June 2018



The main organizer



The conference completed thanks to financial support
of Polish National Foundation

Why this Conference?

The International Communications Forum (ICF) has held 28 conferences all over the world since its creation almost 30 years ago. **This conference has however a specific character since it is also a tribute paid to the late Janusz Kochanowski, former Commissioner for Human Rights**, who before his tragic death in Smolensk in April 2010, wanted very much this conference to happen and was ready to promote it. Moreover a conference about the media must have a specific character being held in the country of Solidarność and Saint John Paul...

The media lost a great deal of their credibility around the world. It is high time for the media community to ask itself what we have done with our great mission and what the result of shortcomings is for the society. We need to define a new role of the media, respecting their own dignity, their deontology as a service to democracy and to the public, their calling as bridge builder between people and nations, allowing us to understand and respect “the other” in the diversity that is the greatness of Europe and our world.

Poland has brought to the world in the past decades the best and most uplifting values, the ideals of Solidarność and the lessons of Pope John Paul II. But are the Poles – and the Polish media – living up to it? Or are we faced here with some confusion between “the freedom from” (getting rid of totalitarianism) and “the freedom to”, which is the need to build on the basis a vibrant democracy based upon the respect of the human person in the community? Are not the media having the tendency to mix with political and business powers also in Poland? Have we not seen the media in the past years in Poland becoming part of the establishment? Do they not indulge more than often in sensationalism, infotainment, superficial reporting, undocumented and politically biased statements, lack of responsibility for the spoken or written word, low professionalism as well as low ethics?

The media however are not worse in Poland than in other countries. Everywhere they are products of the shortcomings of our materialist and consumer-oriented, globalized society. It will therefore be fascinating for media people from Poland to share with colleagues from all over the world their experiences and their views and for all to honestly see together if there are ways for this noble profession of ours to recover its dignity and credibility and fulfill again its mission of public service.

We will sit together and the speakers will briefly introduce topics. Then we will start an open discussion between media people but more importantly citizens and human beings, trying to find first how they could improve their trade in each one’s own heart and mind.

Monday, June 11th

Opening (9:00)

Piotr Gliński, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture

Welcoming Session 9:15 - 9:30

Krzysztof Skowroński, President of the Polish Journalists Association (SDP)

Bernard Margueritte, President of the International Communications Forum (ICF)

Session I: Dignity of the Media – The role of public, private and citizen media (9:30-10:50)

Moderator and speaker: Octavia Nasr, CNN, Lebanon & USA

Speakers: Sabina Inderjit, India

Piotr Legutko, TVP, Poland

Eric Scherer, Future Media, France

William Bird, Media Monitoring Africa, South Africa

Tomasz Wróblewski, WEI, Poland

Discussion 10:50 - 11:30

Coffee break 11:30 - 12:00

Session II: Digital and traditional media – conflict or complementarity? 12:00 - 13:20

Moderator and speaker: Laura King, LA Times, USA

Speakers: Robert Bogdanski, POLinENG, Poland

Michael Koliska, Georgetown U., USA & Germany

Michał Kłosowski, Instytut Nowych Mediów, Poland

Taavi Minnik, Postimees, Estonia

Beena Sarwar, Emerson College, USA & Pakistan

Discussion 13:20 - 14:00

Lunch 14:00 - 15:00

Session III: Media at the Service of the Citizen as a pillar of democracy 15:00 - 16:30

Moderator and speaker: Magnus Linklater, The Times of Scotland, UK

Speakers: Tom Hundley, Pulitzer Center, USA

Paweł Lisicki, Do Rzeczy, Poland

Aleksandra Rybińska, wPolsce, Poland

Amit Sengupta, India

Mikhailina Skoryk, Media Group Ukraine, Ukraine

Discussion 16:30 - 17:10

Tuesday, June 12th

Session IV: Media in Poland – Is the freedom of the media endangered? 9:30 - 10:50

Moderators and speakers: Bernard Margueritte, ICF and Krzysztof Skowroński, SDP

Speakers: Bogusław Chrabota, Rzeczpospolita
Jolanta Hajdasz, Press Freedom Monitoring Center
Krzysztof Jedlak, Dziennik Gazeta Prawna
Jacek Karnowski, Sieci
Wojciech Surmacz, PAP
Wiktoria Świątek, Polskie Radio

Discussion 10:50 - 11:30

Coffee break 11:30 - 12:00

Session V: Media at times of conflicts 12:00 -13:20

Moderator and speaker: Sanjoy Hazarika, Indie

Speakers: Vanessa Bassil, Lebanon
Paweł Bobołowicz, Poland
Mondly Makhanya, South Africa
Oleksiy Matsuka, Ukraine
Faustina Starret, Irlandie

Discussion 13:20 - 14:00

Lunch 14:00 -15:00

Session VI: Media and the Understanding of “the Other” 15:00 -16:30

– Media bringing people together

Moderator and speaker: Bronisław Wildstein, Poland

Speakers: Wiliam Smook, South Africa
Assad Chaftari, Lebanon
Mariusz Pilis, Poland
Wiliam Stainsby, Irlandie
Veronika Urakova, Tatarstan, Russia

Discussion 16:30 - 17:10

Session VII: Instead of a Conclusion: Journalism and Spiritual Values 17:10 – 17:30

– Graham Turner, UK

Vote of Thanks: 17:30

Krzysztof Skowroński, SDP
Bernard Margueritte, ICF