

Free Speech: Empowering a modern society

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Agenda:

- What is the EBU and what do we do?
- EBU Special Assistance
- Our Core Values
- EBU and Media Freedom

What is the EBU?

- An association that unites and supports **85 national broadcasters** from **56 countries** in and around Europe
- Founded in **1950** and grew in time; supporting the process of transformation of state broadcasters into public service ones.

Broadcasters serving the **public**, not a particular party or government.

Serving **citizens** rather than consumers, with **independent** and **pluralistic** programming

What do we do?

- The Eurovision Song Contest for over 56 years
- One of largest broadcasting networks in the world
- The Eurovision News Exchange in Geneva
- We promote public service values and their importance to democratic societies
- We offer legal, technical and operational services, exchanges and co-productions of quality programming in both radio, television and on the internet

EBU Special Assistance

- Support for Members encountering deep financial, technical, political or other difficulties, to underline the Union's prime principle of solidarity. Examples are Eastern European countries & North African countries



Public service media play an essential role in guaranteeing freedom of expression and media pluralism

- Freedom of expression is one of the EBU's core values, enshrined in the very first Article of our Statutes.
- We devote much time and energy to defending media pluralism and the independence of national media organizations
- We are, at the moment, working on reinforcing our values

EBU Core Values *

Public Service Media are at the heart of the European cultural tradition serving the democratic and social needs of each society in Europe. We are committed to the public as a whole, being free at the point of use, when and where media users need it. We want to play an important and defining role in guaranteeing freedom of expression and in sharing multiple, pluralistic views. Difference matters.

- Universality
- Independence
- Excellence
- Diversity
- Accountability
- Innovation

* Not yet approved

EBU Declaration on Media Freedom

- Declaration issued at 64th EBU General Assembly Baku, Azerbaijan, July 2010
- Strong declaration calling on all governments to respect freedom of expression and freedom of the media

EBU working with other organizations:

- Memorandum of understanding with Council of Europe
- Work closely with OSCE
- Cooperate with
 - UNESCO
 - International Federation of Journalists
 - International News Safety Instituteand others

EBU Media Freedom workshop on Azerbaijan: May 2nd

- Azerbaijan has come into sharp media focus because of the Eurovision Song Contest 26 May.
- Intense demands that the Azeri government improve its human rights and press freedom record.
- EBU brought human rights groups and Azeri government together figures to talk about ways of bringing progress on media freedom in Azerbaijan
- Outcome and steps forward

**Thank you for
your attention**

