

07.10.2011.

PRESS COUNCIL IN B&H

at THE 13TH SESSION OF THE ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT PRESS COUNCILS OF EUROPE – AIPCE 2011

The Press Council in B&H, with its yearly achievement report, has in the best light presented Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the leading country in the region with regards to the application of media self-regulation

Invasion of privacy, self-regulation of online media and regulation of visitor's comments, public personalities and media reporting – these are the main topics of this year's Session of Press Councils from 30 different countries held in Moscow.

Amendments to the Press Codes from all the countries were analyzed, in relation to online comments, UGC-*user generated content*. The Annex to the Press Codes makes a strict distinction between regulations which concern portal visitors and professional provisions for journalists and editors, besides the fact that compliance with the Annex will be equally mandatory. The Press Council in B&H has, during this year, finalized the amendments to the Press Code of B&H which concern online media, thus being amongst the first in Europe to establish self-regulation rules for new media.

In the discussion on the legal status of the European Press Councils, special attention is given to the experience of B&H in the practical application of the Law on Protection against Defamation and to the fact that judges and prosecutors willingly and regularly participate in educational seminars about the freedom of press, the Press Code and compliance with Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. This, in Europe, is a unique example of cooperation between the judiciary system and self-regulatory bodies, with the goal of improving the application of this Law and protecting the freedoms of the journalist profession.

The three-day assembly of the AIPCE in Moscow, will be concluded this evening, 07.10.2011, commemorating the assassination of journalist Anna Politkovskaya with the projection of the film "The Bitter Taste of Freedom" and the discussion on the position of journalists in Europe, also, tomorrow, on Saturday, AIPCE members, together with journalists from the newspaper Novaya Gazeta, will visit the grave of the murdered journalist.

Participation of the Press Council in BiH representatives at the Annual Assembly of the Alliance of Independent Press Councils enabled: German Embassy in Sarajevo, Sarajevo osigurnanje d.d. Hypo Alpe Adria Bank, Ministry of Ministry of Physical Planning and Environmental Protection of Canton Sarajevo, Federal Ministry of Finances, Raiffeisen bank and BH Telecom.