



EU INTEGRATION & COMMON SECURITY: MAKING IT HAPPEN

The 6th annual meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

20-21 November 2014, Batumi, Georgia

RESOLUTION: **Media war being conducted by the Russian Federation**
SESSION: 6th EaP CSF Annual Assembly
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The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum *expresses* its deep concern over the overwhelming presence of Russian propaganda in Ukrainian TV-channels, printed and online media.

The Ukrainian National Platform of the CSF (UNPCSF) fully *opposes* the re-broadcasting in Ukraine of Russian television films (series) where the actors demonstrate disrespect to the Ukrainian nation and dignity of its citizens.

The UNPCSF *welcomes* the resolution of the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine on the self-regulation of the media market regarding film content and immediate removal from broadcasts of video-production originating from Russia, which contains anti-Ukrainian sentiments. Present day Russia is fighting a 'hybrid' war not only against Ukraine and the Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership countries, but also against the EU, USA and Western civilization as a whole. This war encompasses not only military, terrorist, political and economic realms, but also the information component, in other words, aggressive Russian propaganda. Therefore, the Russian Federation information policy needs to be considered in the context of the general security policy of the countries on the European continent and the whole Western world.

The Batumi assembly also *notes* that free media are the basis for the democratic development of society and reminds journalists and senior media staff that propaganda and incitement to hatred runs counter to the fundamental mission of the media which is to accurately inform about and understand the world without fear or favour.

In this respect, state controlled television in Russia has over the past months been conducting an unprecedented campaign based on lies which is designed to build support in Russian society at large for aggressive official policies.

Journalists and senior editorial staff bear responsibility for what appears in their broadcasts and publications and they are duty bound to abide by ethical norms which govern the media.

The Batumi assembly of the EaP CSF urges the European Commission to consider imposing sanctions and travel bans to the EU on leading figures in the Russian broadcast media which are controlled by the authorities.

These would include the general managers of Russia's First and Second television channels and the general manager of NTV as well as the owners of Lifenews and the chief editor of the RT channel which broadcasts abroad in English and other languages.

In the conditions of asymmetric information war, which Russia wages on the territory of the former Soviet Union space, the Batumi Assembly and the Ukrainian National Platform particularly call for wider unity and consolidation of the civil society of Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership in countering the challenge from Russian aggressive actions.