



Opening address at the *First South East Europe Media Law Academy*, by

**Josip Popovac, President of the European Association of Public Service Media
in South East Europe/Director General of the Croatian Radio-Television**

4 June 2012, Zagreb

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Guests,

Dear Colleagues,

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome you at Croatian Radio Television on this very important occasion of launching the First Academy of Media Law in South East Europe. We are at the beginning of a project that has a very important objective – to contribute to the development and implementation of media legislation in the region of South East Europe.

On this occasion I would like to express my gratitude to the partners who made this Academy possible and they are: Regional Cooperation Council, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. I would also like to thank the colleagues from Article 19 and European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe who are in charge for the implementation of the project.

As the Chief Executive Officer of a public service broadcaster and a lawyer I would like to express my satisfaction with the fact that such an idea was brought up, that this idea was recognised and supported, particularly when I see the programme that we have for these five days. Public service media remit, media pluralism in the digital era, media responsibility, themes and challenges that we are faced with in our everyday work. Through the very discussion, by sharing and learning from each others and from the best legal national and international framework and practices, we contribute to strengthening the media standards in our countries and in the whole region.

Regarding Croatia, I think this is the right moment for such a discussion and exchange of opinion and experience as amendments to the Law on Croatian Radio and Television are about to be passed. Public debate has finished and we are expecting a debate on new proposals in the Parliament soon. Government of the Republic of Croatia has announced changes to the media law and I do hope that

such a meeting can be the right place for acquiring knowledge and experience and that this can contribute to passing quality media laws.

Once again, I would like to wish you a successful work and thank you all. I sincerely hope this will really be the First Academy on Media Law that has a future.

It is my pleasure to leave the floor to our respected guest and friend, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, Mr Hido Biscevic.