

## **Remarks by EU Head of Delegation, Bettina Muscheidt, media impartiality seminar**

Wednesday, 26 February 2014  
09:30 – Sheba hotel

Good morning everybody,

- I am very pleased to be with you today to attend the launch of this important seminar on enhancing the media impartiality in Yemen. I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank Mr Mustafa Nassr and his Economic and Media Studies Centre for implementing this project.

- I do hope that this humble initiative from the EU would contribute to strengthening media impartiality in Yemen.

- Indeed, Yemen badly needs a professional media that can contribute to promoting good governance, fighting corruption, advocating human rights and voicing the concerns of the people. And impartiality is central to a professional media – it is about fairness, accuracy and objectivity.

- The media landscape in Yemen is highly polarised, and objectivity is often compromised for the sake of serving self-interests and political agendas. We do recognise the numerous challenges facing the existence of genuinely independent media in Yemen, notably financial sustainability. This would require a lot of efforts and investment. And while the number of Yemeni media outlets keeps growing, more attention should be given to enhance their professionalism.

- The EU will do its best to support a vibrant and free media in Yemen. Just by coincidence, I will be attending another media event in half an hour to launch a media freedom report and a press freedom award jointly with the local press group, the Freedom Foundation.

- At this particular time in Yemen, media has an important role to play and they have to show responsibility. Yemen is embarking on a new phase that requires the hard work of its people to rebuild the country on the principles of genuine democracy, tolerance and diversity. These principles are of paramount importance to ensure a prosperous and civil state that respects the rights of its citizens, uphold fundamental freedoms and care for its people. A professional media has an indispensable role to play in this respect.

- I thank you for taking part in this program – it shows that indeed you are interested in contributing to a more professional Yemeni media landscape. In this sense, I wish you all the best for your career and your future.

Thanks,

