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Tirana
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Association of European Journalists -
Albanian section.

Reply to Open Letter from Media

Dear members of the Albanian section of Association of European Journalists, thank you for the open letter that was received by me personally and the Embassy of Sweden in Albania.

I would like to start by thanking you.

I would like to thank you for asking for our attention regarding one of the most important part of society in a well-functioning democracy, namely the media. We need a qualitative and strong media in all times but perhaps even more in difficult times. We need you to provide us with accurate information, we need you to hold civil servants, like myself, institutions and politicians accountable.

Sweden has an increased concern about the threats and challenges of upholding democratic values around the world. We see a shrinking space for democracy in many countries. Democracy need to be protected every day and therefore Sweden has initiated Drive of Democracy as one of our key focus areas for the Swedish government.

I am proud that Sweden is a strong supporter of media globally and in the Western Balkans. However, I think that more can be done. Media is a corner stone for democracy.

I look forward to continuing this dialogue with you and other journalists in Albania.

Yours sincerely,

Elsa Håstad

Ambassador