

DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEDIA COVERING THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE NEGOTIATIONS COUNCIL AND NEGOTIATIONS FORUM

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this code is to facilitate co-operation between the media and the Negotiation Council in order to ensure the best possible coverage of the negotiations process, to the satisfaction of the public and all parties concerned.

1. Members of the media who attend the Multi-Party Negotiations proceedings should receive permanent accreditation. For purposes of identification and security all members of the media carry identification to prove their media affiliation should such proof be requested, as with delegates and support staff etc. All members of the media must wear registration tags inside the World Trade Centre.
2. The carrying of weapons inside the World Trade Centre is prohibited. In this regard the same prohibitions apply to the media as to the delegates and support staff etc.
3. The media should have as much freedom as possible to move around and do their job.

The only areas that the media will not have access to, will be clearly indicated by the Multi-Party management, and should be limited as possible.

Areas such as the Press Gallery in the Negotiations Council should be for the exclusive use of the media. Clear signposting to this effect must be visible at all times to those wanting to enter the Press Gallery. In consultation with the elected, representative body for the media, arrangements should be made for permanent seating allocated for the permanent accredited media persons. How to improve facilities, including more telephone lines etc. should also be arranged.

4. An elected, representative body for the media who have permanent accreditation at the World Trade Centre should be negotiated. This body must work closely with the Communications Committee.
5. Mechanisms to resolve disputes and complaints should be jointly decided upon by the Communications Committee and the body representing the media.
6. The Multi-Party Negotiating Process Management must, as a matter of urgency, appoint a permanent staff member to work as **Media Liaison Officer**, in order to deal with media issues, and to ensure that all the documentation of the Negotiations Forum will be timeously distributed to all members of the media.
7. As there is uncertainty about the specific definition of what "tabling " means , a clear definition must be decided upon. In consultation with the representative body for the media, procedures on how to deal with embargoes should be agreed to. Once this has

● been done all members of the media will be expected to abide strictly by the embargoes placed on documents that are released by the Negotiations Council and the Negotiations Forum.

Remedies to deal with the breaking of an Embargo by representatives of the media should be jointly determined by the Communications Committee and the body representing the media.

8. The right of the media to report freely as reflected in the standards set by the Media Council and all other relevant media bodies must be guaranteed at all times.
9. This Code Of Conduct is an agreement between the Negotiations Council and the Media. The contents should, thus be cleared with the Media through their elected, representative body.
- * After consultation with representatives of the media, it became clear that journalists are very reluctant to agree to a code of conduct. If it proves to be impossible to get their co-operation in this regard, we may have to drop a formal code of conduct and rather rely on a consultation process with the elected, representative body for the media.

This is a matter that should be considered by the Communications Committee, other members of the Sub-Committee can brief them further.