



Media Ground Rules

These Ground Rules are specific to the *2024 GSOFSymposium Europe*, 01-03 October in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. This event is open to all accredited and registered journalists, however, failure to adhere to the prescribed ground rules may result in dismissal from the Symposium.

Registration:

- All members of the media / press, including print, broadcast, radio and social media, must register before attending the symposium. **Registration can be accomplished at gsofeurope.org.**
- You will be asked to provide proof of employment as a member of the media to gain access to event sessions and the exhibit hall. It is required that media credentials are presented, such as: press passes, business cards, letters of verification and other identification. They must be provided when pre-registering and during badge pickup. The above also applies for photojournalists/videographers.
- Event organizers can refuse to issue media credentials for any individual. Advertising, marketing, business development, publishers, business operations, and public relations personnel may not register as media.

Ground Rules:

- Journalists cannot freely approach Symposium speakers without prior notification to Ms. Chelsea Hamashin, GSOFS Vice President of Marketing and Events, but they may approach Symposium attendees and staff as appropriate.
- All speakers, guests, and GSOFS staff have the right to refuse any discussion with the media. Some guest speakers, due to their subject matter or security concerns, may request a closed session. GSOFS may also independently record and interview with the interviewee's approval.
- Media must wear credentials at all times and identify themselves before speaking with any symposium attendee.
- Media access varies by session type:
 - Keynote Sessions and SOF Slams are open to the media and on-the-record.
 - Panel Discussions and Fireside Chats are held under Chatham House Rule.
 - Government-Only and Corporate Partner-Only sessions are not open to the media.
 - Media are invited to social events (e.g., evening receptions) but are prohibited from conducting interviews.
- Photography and filming are prohibited unless specific permission is granted. Live streaming is not authorized.
- Social sharing from an open session or in a common area is authorized using the **#GSOFEurope**
- GSOFS does not have the ability to provide transcripts but will ask the speaker to provide them upon request. Speakers are under no obligation to provide transcripts, notes or any written material to GSOFS or any journalist.

Contact Information:

- **Ms. Chelsea Hamashin, GSOFS Vice President of Marketing and Events:** chamashin@gsof.org, +1 (813) 486-7684

Definition of Terms

On the Record

Information may be quoted directly and attributed to the official by name and title.

On Background

The official's remarks may be quoted directly or paraphrased and are attributed to a "Subject matter expert" or a "GSF Official," as mutually determined by the official and the media member.

On Deep Background

The source cannot be quoted or identified in any manner, not even as "an unnamed source." The information is usually couched in such phrases as "it is understood that" or "it has been learned." The information may be used to help present the story or to gain a better understanding of the subject, but the knowledge is that of the reporter, not the source.

Off the Record

Nothing of what the journalist is told may be used in the story. The information is meant only for the education of the reporter.

Chatham House Rule

Journalists are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.