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The Armenian Law on Television and Radio negatively impedes pluralism in the media and limits the freedom of information

Written declaration No. 457

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

The Armenian Law on Television and Radio negatively impedes pluralism in the media and limits the freedom of information.

The changes to the Armenian Law on Television and Radio, which were proposed by the government and were adopted during a special session of the Armenian National Assembly on 10 June 2010, only expand state control over television and radio broadcasting.

Opposition parties, the Assembly Monitoring Committee's co-rapporteurs on Armenia and the OSCE clearly criticise the aforementioned changes.

The undersigned hereby note that the changes in the above-mentioned law are aimed at obstructing the 2008 decision of the European Court of Human Rights which criticised the Armenian Government for its closure of the independent A1+ television station limiting and reducing the number of television stations and restricting the broadcast airwaves for new television companies.

The changes will result in further abuse of this law, including:

- an unclearly defined licensing system for satellite transmission, cellular phone messaging and Internet broadcasting;
- the imposition of restrictive licensing requirements;
- granting courts sweeping powers over broadcasting licenses and unjustified limitations on freedom of the media.

Considering it unacceptable that the Armenian Government's changes to the Law on Television and Radio resulted in a flagrant abuse of media freedoms, we demand that the authorities modify the law within a reasonable time-frame, in conformity with international standards and that the opposition is allowed to participate in the process.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
ANGHEL Florin Serghei, Romania, EPP/CD
BADEA Viorel Riceard, Romania, EPP/CD
BONDARENKO Olena, Ukraine, EPP/CD
DONABAUER Karl, Austria, EPP/CD
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC
FRITZ Erich Georg, Germany, EPP/CD
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GUȚU Ana, Republic of Moldova, ALDE
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HUSKOWSKI Stanisław, Poland, EPP/CD
JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC
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KUBATA Václav, Czech Republic, EPP/CD
KÜHNEL Franz Eduard, Austria, EPP/CD
LAUKKANEN Markku, Finland, ALDE
LIPÍŃSKI Dariusz, Poland, EPP/CD
LOEPFE Arthur, Switzerland, EPP/CD
MAISSEN Theo, Switzerland, EPP/CD
MINCHEV Krasimir, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
NEGELE Gebhard, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
PAPADIMITRIOU Elsa, Greece, EPP/CD
PETROV Petar, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
POSTANJYAN Zaruhi, Armenia, EPP/CD
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD
ROBLES Gonzalo, Spain, EPP/CD
RUGĀTE Anta, Latvia
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
SCHÄDLER Leander, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
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TOSHEV Latchezar, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 36

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group