



EPC | European
Publishers
Council

News Release

European Publishers Council Celebrates World Press Freedom Day:

POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS NEED TO BE RIGHT TO PROTECT A DIVERSE AND FREE MEDIA

The EPC, representing 26 leading media organisations around Europe, is proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations “World Press Freedom Day” today, Friday, 3 May, and applauds the UN for its attempt to:

- celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;
- assess the state of press freedom throughout the world;
- defend the media from attacks on their independence;
- pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

EPC Executive Director Angela Mills Wade said: “Press freedom is vital for democracy and is an essential vehicle for freedom of expression, a right enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights. The EPC works to protect this right every day, working with legislators and policy-makers in the EU to guarantee a free and diverse press in Europe. This freedom is not something we can take for granted. As we see in Hungary*, even in Europe there is a regime intent on limiting freedom of expression and freedom of the press”.

“But not only do we fight against political threats but also economic ones; ensuring that the media is commercially viable is extremely important. It is essential that the media, traditional and new, are able to build sustainable business models to fund quality, authoritative and diverse content. In particular, we are working to make it easier for copyright to work online so that all content owners, from the individual to the largest corporation, can express their rights and, if desired, expect payment for their work. A successful, economically-viable press is necessary for freedom of expression to thrive.”

EPC

Chairman > Francisco Pinto Balsemão
mgil@impresa.pt

Executive Director > Angela C. Mills Wade
angela.mills-wade@epceurope.eu



Concerns about Hungary were recently highlighted by Viviane Reding, Vice President of the European Commission, EU Justice Commissioner before the European Parliament.

For more information, please contact Angela Mills Wade on Tel: +44 1865 310 732 or Heidi Lambert on Tel: +44 7932 141 291

www.epceurope.eu

ENDS
3 May 2013

Notes to editors:

- 17/04/2013 IP/13/324 Hungary and the Rule of Law - Statement of the European Commission in the Plenary Debate of the European Parliament
- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-324_en.htm
- <http://www.un.org/en/events/pressfreedomday/> (UN)
- <http://en.rsf.org/hungary.html> (Reporters without Borders information on Hungary)
- <http://www.linkedcontentcoalition.org/#!/press-room/c12fz> (EPC project on online copyright)



EPC MEMBERS:

Chairman:

Mr. Francisco Pinto Balsemão, *Chairman*, [Impresa](#), Portugal

Members:

Dr. Carlo de Benedetti, *Chairman*, [Gruppo Editoriale L'Espresso](#), Italy

Mr. Jonas Bonnier, *CEO*, [Bonnier](#), Sweden

Mr. Oscar Bronner, *Publisher & Editor in Chief*, [Der Standard](#), Austria

Dr. Hubert Burda, *Chairman and CEO*, [Burda Media](#), Germany

Mr. Juan Luis Cebrian, *CEO*, [Groupo Prisa](#), Spain

Mr. Mike Darcey, *Chief Executive*, [News International Ltd](#), UK

Dr. Mathias Döpfner, *Chief Executive*, [Axel Springer AG](#), Germany

Mr. Erik Engstrom, *Chief Executive*, [Reed Elsevier](#)

Mr. Luis Enriquez, *CEO*, [Vocento](#), Spain

Mr. Simon Fox, *Chief Executive*, [Trinity Mirror plc](#), UK

Dr. Stefan von Holtzbrinck, *President and Chairman of the Executive Board*, [Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck GmbH](#), Germany

Ms. Julia Jäkel, *Chief Executive*, [Gruner + Jahr](#), Germany

Mr. Pietro Scott Jovane, *CEO*, [RCS Media Group SpA](#), Italy

Mr. Harri - Pekka Kaukonen, *CEO*, [Sanoma Corporation](#), Finland

Mr. Steffen Kragh, *President and CEO*, [The Egmont Group](#), Denmark

Mr. Murdoch MacLennan, *Chief Executive*, [Telegraph Media Group Ltd](#), UK

Mr Andrew Miller, *Chief Executive*, [Guardian Media Group](#), UK

Mr. Piotr Niemczycki, *CEO*, [Agora](#), Poland

Mr. Panayotis Psycharis, *CEO*, [Lambrakis Press Group](#), Greece

Mr. John Ridding, *Chief Executive*, [Financial Times Group](#), UK

Mr. Michael Ringier, *President*, [Ringier](#), Switzerland

The RT. Hon. The Viscount Rothermere, *Chairman*, [Daily Mail and General Trust](#), UK

Mr. Rolv Erik Ryssdal, *CEO*, [Schibsted](#), Norway

Mr. Jim Smith, *Chief Executive*, [Thomson Reuters](#)

Mr. Christian Van Thillo, *Chief Executive*, [De Persgroep](#), Belgium