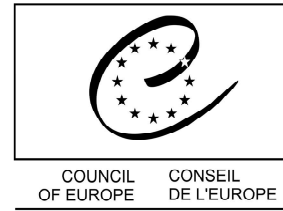




Ministry of Education, Science and Culture



Strasbourg, 27 May 2009

MCM(2009)025
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**1st Council of Europe Conference of Ministers
responsible for Media and New Communication Services**
A new notion of media?
(28-29 May 2009, Reykjavik, Iceland)

***Statement on the Draft Resolution on Developments in anti-terrorism legislation in Council
of Europe member states and their impact on freedom of expression and information***

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS (AEJ)

The Association of European Journalists (AEJ)

1. Is profoundly concerned that the current wording of the draft Resolution on Developments in anti-terrorism legislation in Council of Europe member states and their impact on freedom of expression and information fails to meet the needs of the actual situation, as set out in expert papers to the CDMC and by some CDMC members, or the specific problem spelled out in the Political Declaration prepared for Reykjavic, namely that "there is growing concern about the impact on those freedoms of terrorism and of action taken by member states to combat it".
2. Asks the CDMC to consider an amendment to the current draft text of the draft Resolution, namely:
 - In Article 10 iii, to replace "Recognise the importance of reviewing our national legislation and/or practice on a regular basis to ensure..." with "Resolve to review our national legislation and/or practice on a regular basis to ensure etc...".
3. Draw's attention to the fact that national delegations which proposed other significant amendments had earlier made known that they would accept the draft including the original wording in 10 iii as above, which was removed but which I now propose as a new amendment.
4. Believes that in the circumstances anything less than a forthright commitment by member states to review the relevant national legislation would be seen as an evasion of states' solemn commitment to one of the fundamental principles of the European Convention on Human Rights.
5. Understands that other Observers and national delegations on the CDMC share the opinion of the AEJ as well as the wish to see this proposed amendment adopted into the text.