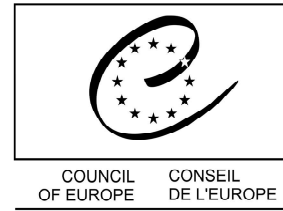




Ministry of Education, Science and Culture



Strasbourg, 27 May 2009

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

European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

The European Federation of Journalists

1. Criticises the failure of this declaration to recognise attacks on media freedom and to defend and promote vigorously independent journalism in the face of constraints on the basis of “anti-terrorism” concerns.
2. Calls on the Council of Europe to recapture the spirit of its founding and stand up for liberties and demands that all states carry out immediate review of legislation and consult with media, journalists and civil society in the process.
3. Welcomes the calls for a comprehensive review of policy regarding new information environment, but regrets the lack of direction on realities of convergence, on the need for an extension of public service values in media, and new accountability systems and also the need for a debate that reaches out to all in society.
4. Tells the Council of Europe and its member States to support journalists on issues such as the Ethical Journalism Initiative, the EFJ Varna Declaration, a new review of impact of anti-terrorism laws.
5. Calls on the Council of Europe and its member states to stand up to those governments that are failing in their duty to protect civil liberties and are instead opening the door to a new era of surveillance, monitoring and restraint on the right of people to hold their leaders to account through journalistic scrutiny of power.
6. Notes also that the mood is changing – rights are back on the agenda as the new administration in America has already begun to demonstrate – isn’t it time that Europe should show some leadership in this area as well?