To the attention of the Members of the Spanish Parliament
Juan Barranco
José Ramón Beloki
Francesc Canet i Coma
Ignacio Echániz
Josep Lluís Sánchez LLibre
Oscar López
Carlos Ocaña

Subject: Proyecto de Ley de Medidas Urgentes en Materia de Telecomunicaciones

Date: 13 May 2009, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Chamber of deputies will start soon the discussion on the Proyecto de Ley de Medidas Urgentes en Materia de Telecomunicaciones. In this respect, the Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) requests your support to the amendments presented by ERC and IU-ICV deputies in favor of community media.

Those amendments to that Bill demand to the Spanish Government to take in account the following recommendations in developing the regulatory framework in Spain:

− The Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the role of community media in the promotion of the social cohesion and the intercultural dialogue, adopted by the Council of Europe in February 2009;
− The Joint Declaration on Diversity in Broadcasting signed in December 2007 by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the ACHPR (African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.

In addition, we support the request to authorize provisionally the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) emission of the non-for-profit proximity TV stations regulated by the Disposición Transitoria Decimoctava de la Ley de Medidas de Impulso de la Sociedad de la Información.

This measure is essential to include the fifteen stations affected by the DTT implementation plan since the mandatory regulations have still to be developed. These are the preliminary conditions for the beneficiaries to address the regional governments, who should regulate within their competences the services’ operation.

Thus, without the articulation of the measure for which we are asking for support, the Spanish Government plans for analogue transmissions technology switch-off could imply community television stations’ closure.

Therefore Community Media call also for the support of the European Parliament and the European Council to their task, urging the European Union and its Member States to regulate and grant spectrum, as well as material support.

Yours sincerely

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