



European Democracy Conference 2022

Press and Media Freedom under Pressure

Monday, 10 October 2022, 17:00 – 19:00

Keynote and panel discussion

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

[Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin](https://www.boell.de/en/office/berlin)

Registration

→ **Monday, 10 October 2022** – calendar.boell.de. Free entry.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine represents a watershed moment of truly unfathomable magnitude in European post-war history. This war between democracy and authoritarianism is also waged on another battleground: the media. Targeted disinformation campaigns disseminating Russian propaganda not only affect Russian society but also have severe repercussions for independent reporting in Europe.

A free, independent press and a vibrant, diverse media landscape are the backbone of liberal democracy. In Europe and the European Union in particular however, these cornerstones of democratic order are coming under increasing pressure. For years, the progressive decline of an independent press and media landscape has been observed – albeit for different reasons – in Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Malta, and most recently in Greece. Independent reporting is threatened by cartelization or state capture of entire media landscapes. Investigative journalists are not only exposed to threats, hate, and smear campaigns online but have also faced violent physical attacks. Moreover, they are intimidated through legal action, intended to prevent them from carrying out their research. One thing is clear: Europe has long ceased to be a safe haven for a critical, free press. The murders of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia and Slovak journalist Jan Kuciak represent the disturbing culmination of this creeping deterioration.

What we urgently need is a strong public debate on how to counteract the advancing deterioration of free reporting in a targeted and definitive manner. We need to ask ourselves:

- What is causing the critical deterioration of media and press freedoms, and which challenges do European media systems face today?
- How can we decisively reduce the threat to journalists in the EU and shape the future of critical and independent journalism in Europe in a sustainable manner?
- In what ways can policy makers react to monopolization, nationalization, and other undesirable currents within the EU's media landscape? Which alternative media formats and financing models have already been put in place that could counteract these developments?
- How can liberal democracies take defensive action against targeted disinformation?

We want to discuss these urgent questions at the European Democracy Conference with journalists, media professionals, experts, academics, and agents of an active and courageous civil society, with the objective of highlighting solutions and initiatives as examples of good practices.

Twitter: **#eupol22 #StandWithUkraine**

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Keynote and panel discussion

16:00	Registration, welcome and exchange
17:00	Opening remarks Jan Philipp Albrecht , President, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berlin
17:10	Keynote and debate Matthew Caruana Galizia , Director, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, Valletta
17:30	In conversation with: Matthew Caruana Galizia , Director, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, Valletta Katrin Göring-Eckardt , Vice President of the Bundestag, German Green Party, Berlin Maria Kurinna , International Advocacy Manager, ZMINA, Warsaw Christian Mihr , Executive Director, Reporters Without Borders Germany, Berlin Chair: Nina Horaczek , Author and Reporter-in-Chief, FALTER, Vienna
19:00	End

Technical note

Free entry

Languages

The conference will be held in **German** and **English**. Respective simultaneous translations are available.

Livestream

The event will be livestreamed, available [here](#).

Time and venue

Monday, 10 October 2022, 5 PM - 7 PM (CEST)

[Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Beletage, Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin-Mitte](#)

How to reach the venue

Bus: route 147. Stop *Deutsches Theater* (barrier-free, 150m on foot)

S-Bahn: routes S1, 2, 25, 5, 7, 75, 9. Station *Friedrichstraße* (exit Albrechtstr., not barrier-free, 250m on foot; alternatively exit Friedrichstr., elevator available, 750m on foot or bus line 147 until *Deutsches Theater*)

U-Bahn: route U6. Station *Oranienburger Tor* (500m on foot)

Tram: routes M1, M6, 12. Station *Oranienburger Tor* (500 - 600m on foot)

from Berlin Central Station (DB), bus route 147, direction *Ostbahnhof* to bus stop *Deutsches Theater*

Project management

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