



European Democracy Conference 2022

Press and Media Freedom under Pressure

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

Public keynote and panel discussion

Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 9:00 – 16:00

Symposium with scientific, media, and policy experts

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

[Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin](#)

Registration

- **Monday, October 10, 2022** (public conference) – [calendar.boell.de](#). Free entry.
- **Tuesday, October 11, 2022** (expert symposium) – [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?
- What can we expect from the European Media Freedom Act recently put forward by the EU Commission?

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**

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Symposium 9:00 – 16:00

- 9:00 **Welcome**
 Claudia Rothe, Policy Advisor European Union, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin
- 9:10 **Opening statement**
 Teresa Ribeiro, Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE, Vienna
- 9:30 **Kick-off debate: Free media under pressure: Taking stock of the situation in Europe**
- with **Eszter Neuberger**, Journalist and Fact-Checker, LAKMUSZ, Budapest
 Agata Kasprolewicz, Radio Journalist, Raport o stanie świata, Warsaw
 Lutz Kinkel, Director, European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, Leipzig
 Daniel Freund, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA, Brussels
 Chair: **Joanna Maria Stolarek**, Head of Office, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Warsaw
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**

- 11:00 **Fishbowl discussion: disinformation in the “new epoch”**
 with **Maria Donde**, Head of International Content Policy, Ofcom, London
Clara Jiménez Cruz, Co-Founder and CEO, Maldita.es, Madrid
Emre İlkan Saklıca, Head of Editorial, teyit.org, Istanbul
Jan Philipp Albrecht, President, Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Berlin
 Chair: **Clara Iglesias Keller**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Berlin Social Sciences Center and Leibniz Institute for Media Research, Hans-Bredow-Institut, Berlin
- 12:00 **Lunch break**
- 13:30 **Spotlight Interview: Media Capture**
Anya Schiffrin, Director “Technology, Media and Communications”, Columbia University, New York City
 Chair: **Scott Griffen**, Deputy Director, International Press Institute (IPI), Vienna
- 14:00 **Parallel forums: Alternative financing models for independent journalism**
- FORUM 1** **Olaya Argüeso Pérez**, Editor-in-Chief, CORRECTIV, Berlin
Iliana Papangeli, Director, Solomon, Athens
 Chair: **Konrad Bleyer-Simon**, Research Associate, European University Institute, Florence
- FORUM 2** **Gábor Kardos**, CEO, 444.hu, Budapest
Stavroula Poulimeni, Journalist, Alterthess, Thessaloniki
Onur Sazak, Chief Operating Officer, Medyascope, Istanbul
 Chair: **Claudia Rothe**, Policy Advisor European Union, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin
- 15:00 **Closing Discussion: How can we safeguard journalists from threats and intimidation?**
 with **Sarah Clarke**, Head of Europe and Central Asia Division, Article 19, London
Stavroula Poulimeni, Journalist, Alterthess, Thessaloniki
Giulia Lucchese, Secretary to the MSI-SLP, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
Jean-Paul Marthoz, Editorial Coordinator, 2022 report of the Council of Europe's Platform for the Protection of Journalism, Brussels
 Chair: **Bastian Hermisson**, Head of European Union and North America Division, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

16:00 **Main takeaways**
Lisa-Maria Kretschmer, Head of Advocacy, Reporters Without Borders, Berlin

16:10 **END**
Reception with coffee and cake

Technical note

Free entry

Languages

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

Time and venue

Tuesday, 11 October 2022, 9 AM - 4 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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