



ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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www.aej.org

The AEJ Newsletter is a quarterly publication for the members of the Association of European Journalists.



1. Successful AEJ Congress / General Assembly in Ordu, Turkey

From 7 till 11 October, representatives from 24 national sections of the Association of European Journalists (AEJ) and several associated journalist organisations, gathered in the wonderful and picturesque city of Ordu, Turkey for the 48th Annual Congress and General Assembly of AEJ. This years' themes were 'The role of media and tourism in bringing closer nations/societies in conflict'; 'Turkey: a chance or burden for Europe' and 'Media Freedom: Current Problems and Issues'. The 48th Annual AEJ Congress was organised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Dogan TILIC, President of AEJ Turkey and sponsored by the City of Ordu, Mayor Seyit TORUN.

2. New Board for AEJ International

The Executive Committee and the General Assembly of the Association of European Journalists elected a new board during their meetings in Ordu, Turkey (8-9 October):

President: Eileen Dunne, Ireland, Secretary-General: N. Peter Kramer, Belgium, Dept. Secretary General: Christos Trikoukis, Greece, 1st Vice-President: Saia Tsaousidou, Greece, 2nd Vice-President: L. Dogan Tilic, Turkey, 3rd Vice-President: Javier F. Arribas, Spain, Treasurer: Luigi Cobisi, Italy, Media Freedom Representative: William Horsley Athanase Papandropoulos (Greece) and Diego Carcedo (Spain) are Honorary Presidents of the AEJ. Carmelo Occhino (Italy) is an Honorary Vice-President.

3. AEJ renews Media Freedom efforts, pledges closer cooperation with Council of Europe Database on Media Freedom violations

At its Congress on 8 to 9 October 2010 in Ordu, Turkey, the AEJ agreed actively to support the ongoing Turkish journalists' Petition to free over 40 jailed Turkish journalists. The AEJ pledged support for the goals of the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative (IMMI), created by Iceland MP Birgitta Jonsdottir. AEJ delegates from 17 countries also passed a Resolution urging

German prosecutors to drop an ongoing criminal investigation against Austrian journalists. The meeting was used to prepare AEJ members for closer cooperation with the Council of Europe by contributing to the CoE Database project. The Database, to be launched in the near future, will identify serious violations of legitimate media freedom across Europe.

4. AEJ Bulgaria takes off!

After being officially recognised by the AEJ General Assembly in Ordu, Turkey (9 October), the Bulgarian section of the AEJ started working on their administrative registration. Apart of choosing its Board, the section has adopted its Statute, aimed at increasing the freedom and quality of the Bulgarian and European media and supporting the development of independent civil journalism and new media.

5. Ukrainian Euronews TV must not be used for government propaganda

The Association of European Journalists shares the concerns of the AEJ Ukrainian Section and of the "Stop Censorship!" movement about the terms of the planned launch of a 24/7 version of Euronews in the Ukrainian language. In view of the dubious record of the present Ukrainian government in upholding press freedom and independence in law and practice, the Euronews service there must give clear safeguards to ensure that the state-owned National Television Company of Ukraine cannot use the new service for partisan political purposes.

6. AEJ calls for an end to prosecution threat against Austrian journalists

In a Resolution adopted at its annual Assembly on 9 October 2010, the Association of European Journalists declared: "Austrian journalists are currently the subjects of a criminal investigation by German authorities for reporting details of a court case using pre-trial judicial papers. This does not constitute an offence under Austrian law. The Association of European Journalists, meeting in Ordu, Turkey, strongly urges the Bavarian state prosecutors and other German judicial authorities to drop all attempts to

criminalise the activities of journalists reporting matters of public interest. We believe that the current investigation and threat of prosecution represents a threat to the principle of freedom of the press in a democracy.”

7. Turkey - a chance or a burden for Europe

One of the most interesting sessions at the congress in Ordu was the one on possible Turkish entry to the EU. Turgut Kudatgobolik, Chairman of the Turkish Employers’ confederation, making the case for integration, told that he had been working with other European employers’ associations for the past 38 years, and that of the 25,300 joint venture companies in Turkey, 65% were with EU companies. Nazhan Ertan, from the Turkish Secretariat General for EU Affairs stated that following the economic crisis in 2001 Turkey had learned lessons and the recent economic crisis had left it relatively unscathed. At present Turkey is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. She also said that recent remarks from some European Presidential palaces were unhelpful. Joan Clos, was Spain’s ambassador to Turkey and now in UNCTAD, spoke about the ‘complexity of entity’, and recalled that when Spain joined the EU it was on a political, not economic basis He suggested that Turkey might pursue that route. On the other hand the cautioned the EU against demanding too much of the Turks. The fourth speaker was Joao Diogo Pinto, Secretary General of European Movement Int., said that the EU was not a closed club, the founders didn’t want it and the treaties didn’t allow it.

AEJ members’ only area at aej.org

If you did not register so far, please do it now, go to the homepage of the website (top right) and click on: No user yet? Register. In case you are registered but forgot your password click on: Forgot password.

To this effort, we kindly ask the valuable co-operation of the Secretary - Generals of each national section, as they will be asked (by email) to confirm membership of people who request access.

Sign the petition for release of Turkish journalists

A call by Dogan Tilic, President AEJ Turkey and VP AEJ International, to all AEJ Members:

November 5: Important day for Media Freedom in Turkey, with rallies and protests. Look at <http://www.ifj.org/en/pages/set-turkish-journalists-free>. Sign and send the petition for release of Turkish journalists.

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