

[en](#) | [fr](#) | [de](#)

[Press release](#) | 21.10.2009

## Freedom of the press

### EU Parliament snuffs out resolutions on press freedom in Italy and Europe

A right-wing majority in the European Parliament today succeeded ¶ by a very narrow margin ¶ in rejecting tabled resolutions addressing press freedom in Italy and Europe.

Greens/EFA President **Rebecca Harms** and Dutch Green MEP **Judith Sargentini**, EP civil liberties committee member and co-author of the Greens/EFA Resolution (1), said:

*"This is a black day for press freedom in Europe. We are bitterly disappointed that a right-wing majority of Conservatives, Christian Democrats and Eurosceptics has succeeded in rejecting EU Parliament resolutions in support of press freedom in Italy and Europe. A call for a EU Directive against concentration of media ownership has therefore been silenced. The votes were very tight but send a far-reaching message that contradicts the fundamental values of the European Union.*

*Silvio Berlusconi's control of both government and media in Italy is profoundly undemocratic. A recent court judgment against Berlusconi's media company and a ridiculous attempt by a Berlusconi channel to discredit the judge are further proof, if any was needed. (2)*

*While Italy's problems certainly stand out, the proposed EU Parliament resolutions addressed the EU as a whole. We demand a free and open press in countries that wish to join the EU - to accept anything less from existing members is hypocrisy. The Greens hope that a new and vigorous debate on media freedom can arise out of the ashes of these stifled resolutions in the EU Parliament."*

\*\*\* **ENDS** \*\*\*

Notes to editors:

(1) Read the Greens/EFA resolution on press freedom in Italy

(2) Greens/EFA MEPs wore turquoise scarves in support of Italian judge Raimondo Mesiano, who ruled against Berlusconi's media company in a bribery case recently. A TV documentary aired on a Berlusconi-owned channel subsequently secretly filmed the judge with a narration of insinuating comments attempting to discredit him, commenting even on his turquoise colour of socks.

## Recommended

Press release

<https://pixabay.com/de/illustrations/gesetz-gerechtigkeit-flagge-europa-6598281/>



[New EU Ethics Body essential for accountability & inte...](#)

25.04.2024

Press release

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/top-view-of-a-soccer-field-13890306/>



[New anti-money laundering rules victory in the fight a...](#)

24.04.2024

Press release

<https://unsplash.com/photos/gray-concrete-building-covered-trees-dqXiw7nCb9Q>



## [EU adopts groundbreaking Corporate Sustainability Due ...](#)

24.04.2024

Press release

<https://unsplash.com/photos/a-long-hallway-with-a-bunch-of-lockers-in-it-ihl2Q5F-VYA>



## [Final report on Hungary shows damning picture on rule ...](#)

24.04.2024

**Please share**

[•E-Mail](#)