Launch of a European Citizens' Initiative on
Media Pluralism

European Parliament
31 May 2012

According to most independent accounts, the situation of media freedom and pluralism in the European Union is worsening. European Institutions have, so far, refrained from taking a strong stance against individual Member States for such deterioration. This "hands-off" approach seems to have contributed to a negative domino effect, with worsening of legislation in one country (i.e. Italy) indirectly leading to restrictive moves in another (i.e. Hungary). A Europe-wide civil society initiative to push for a stronger role for European institutions in safeguarding and protecting **the independence and pluralism of the media** is long overdue.

Since 2010, **European Alternatives** and **Alliance Internationale de Journalistes**, with the support of the Open Society Foundations, have been working towards the establishment of a **European Initiative for Media Pluralism**, a coalition promoting the idea that European institutions should safeguard the right to independent and pluralistic information as sanctioned by the new European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

With this conference, media and civil society organisations from throughout Europe meet to discuss about the modalities of constructing a Europe-wide coalition of organisations and media willing to defend media pluralism transnationally, and launching a European Citizen's Initiative* (ECI) demanding a **EU Directive to ensure respect for Media Freedom and Pluralism**.

 With the support of: