



COMMUNITY MEDIA FORUM EUROPE

To: Mr. Nicos Pappas
Minister Of State
Greece

cc: Mr. Lefteris Kretsos
General Secretary of Media
Greece

Subject: **Development of Community Media sector in Greece**

Brussels, 5th March 2015

Dear Minister Pappas,

Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) represents networks, national federations and projects active within the Third Media Sector sector. It supports community media in maintaining a clearly distinct identity alongside the national public service and private commercial media, at a moment when freedom of expression and free access to information are increasingly endangered by the consequences of concentration in the media field.

The "Third Media Sector" is made up of non profit-making media as community radio and television, serving a local community, providing alternative channels of media production and distribution, media literacy and citizens' participation.

CMFE welcomes the plans of the Greek Government to reform the country's media and to reinstate ERT. We support the government's vision of a holistic reform and regulatory approach, aimed at building a media ecosystem based on pluralism, diversity and universal access.

We encourage a formal recognition of a **three-tier system** of commercial, independent public service broadcasting and community media.

In this respect, we would like to draw the Government's attention to the **European Parliament resolution of 25 September 2008 on Community Media in Europe** (2008/2011(INI)) which states that:

Community media are an important means of empowering citizens and encouraging them to become actively involved in civic society; whereas they enrich social debate, representing a means of internal pluralism of ideas; and whereas concentration of ownership presents a threat to in-depth media coverage of issues of local interest for all groups within the community;

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Stresses that community media help to strengthen media pluralism, as they provide additional perspectives on issues that lie at the heart of a given community;

Calls on Member States to support community media more actively in order to ensure media pluralism, provided that such support is not to the detriment of public media.

The **2009 Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the role of community media** acknowledges the social value of community media as a source of local content, cultural and linguistic diversity, media pluralism, inclusion and intercultural dialogue and **recommend to member states to give legal recognition, access to spectrum (analogue and digital) and funding to the sector.**

We hope you will take these policy recommendations into consideration when revising the Greek media legislation and remain at your disposal for any further comments or input.

Yours sincerely,



Nadia Bellardi
Vice-President CMFE

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Founded in 2004, CMFE links various members of the Third Media Sector at the European level. CMFE has an observer status with the Steering Committee on the Media and Information Society (CDMSI) of the Council of Europe and is part of the CoE International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) Conference. Currently, CMFE has 103 members (of which 28 are National Federations) from 26 European countries. According to the CMFE 2012 mapping, a total of 2237 community radio stations and 521 community television stations are active across Europe.

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