



IAB PRESS RELEASE ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION IN ECUADOR

The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB - notes with deep concern the amendment to the Constitution of Ecuador, adopted by the National Assembly of that country on December 3rd, which added a modification that establishes that social communication is a “public service”.

Social communication is mainly exercised by media in its various forms, both electronic and printed, where radio, television, written press as well as the new technologies of information through Internet and social networks interact.

To consider social communication as a "public service" means to subordinate it to state control, which is exercised directly by governmental institutions through public officials who depend on the government in power.

Social communication and media, qualified by the constitution as "public service", would be thus subjected to state controls and limitations on the content of the messages, unable to act as a framework and vehicle for free expression of thought and pluralism of information, ideas and opinions.

This amendment to the Ecuadorian Constitution means a severe impact on the fundamental right of citizens to express themselves freely and the existence of free and independent media which are essential to the full operation of Democracy.

The constitutional modification promoted by the Ecuadorian government adds to multiple acts of threats, sanctions and hostility against journalists and independent media, promoting a censorship regime undermining Freedom of Expression and Information.

December 9, 2015