

Doc. 45/2013

RESOLUTION OF IAB 43rd. GENERAL ASSEMBLY URUGUAY

WHEREAS:

The bill being considered by the National Parliament of the Republic of Uruguay, which proposes the implementation of a new regulatory system for radio, over-the-air television and subscription television services.

CONSIDERING:

That the media, including over-the-air radio and television play a major role, and are valuable instruments through which the exercise of freedom of expression is possible, enabling and facilitating the free circulation of ideas, opinions and information within democratic societies .

That the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has stressed the close link between freedom of expression, the activity of the media and democracy , noting that freedom of expression and press freedom are essential components of the exercise of democracy .

That the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and other experts have pointed out the imperative need for amendments on the bill so that it conforms to international standards.

That the existence of provisions of ambiguous and generic content, the implementation of a new system of multiple controlling bodies , which are empowered to implement an extensive range of heavy sanctions on the media, form an intimidating framework for media, suitable for self-censorship , a prior censorship form prohibited by domestic law and by various international instruments ratified by Uruguay .

That the implementation of and intrusive and interventionist regime by the Uruguayan Government on the content that the media broadcast and disseminate is an unjustified restriction on the right to seek and receive information by all citizens, as well as a violation of the right to freedom of expression and programming of the holders of that communication sector.

That the State should not be, through the Government in Office, responsible for determining the content that citizens should or should not have access, being the choice of such content an essential right thereof.

//

Doc.45/2013

That the asymmetry in the treatment of the various operators , either public or private, of domestic or foreign origin, violates fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, freedom of entrepreneurship and equality before the law, creating an ostensible inequity in detriment of national and independent media .

THE 43rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTING - IAB-MEETING IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, RESOLVES:

1. To advise the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay that the bill contains provisions contrary to the democratic tradition that has historically prevailed in the country, that could seriously affect the faultless path it has shown up to now in the promotion and defense of human rights and freedom of expression.

2. To urge the Parliament and the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to take corrective measures to guarantee that the legal initiative promoted does not infringe the fundamental rights of all Uruguayans.

Rio de Janeiro ,October 16, 2013