

Doc. 8/2014

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTING – IAB**

**URUGUAY**

**WHEREAS:**

The bill being considered by the Senate 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 .

**CONSIDERING:**

That the bill contains a large number of restrictions on the media, limiting and hindering the free exercise of their activity.

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

That the implementation of an intrusive and interventionist regime by the Uruguayan Government on the content that the media broadcast and disseminate is an unjustified restriction of 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 free and independent media.

That the State should not be responsible for determining the content that citizens should or should not have access to, being an essential right of the citizens to exercise their own free will.

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 .

That governments from other countries have used these instruments to justify undue and illegitimate pressure on the exercise of the activity of the radio and television, their communicators and journalists.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTING MEETING IN SANTIAGO DE CALI, COLOMBIA, ON MAY 30 2014, RESOLVES:**

1. To express their deep concern over this bill for the regulation of Audiovisual Communication Services, currently under consideration by the Senate of the Republic of Uruguay.
2. To urge the honorable legislators to take the actions to prevent the bill promoted from curtailing the fundamental rights consistent with the renowned principles of freedom and democracy, which have characterized Uruguay as an example for the international community.

Santiago de Cali, May 30, 2014