

# **EFJ Annual Meeting (AM)**

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## **Moscow, 21st-22nd November, 2014**

### **Resolutions**

**The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) on 21 - 22 November, 2014 has adopted the following resolutions.**

#### **A. On Economic Crisis, Labour Rights, Gender**

**1. EFJ requests Swiss Publishers' Organisations to negotiate collective agreements with Swiss journalists and media organisations**

*Tabled by syndicom and impressum, Switzerland*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

urges the Swiss German and Swiss Italian press publishers' organisations *Schweizer Medien* and *Stampa Svizzera* to negotiate and conclude a collective agreement with the Swiss journalists' organisations *impressum* and *syndicom*.

For 10 years, press media workers and journalists have been working without collective agreements in the German and Italian speaking regions of Switzerland. Salary and other working conditions have deteriorated substantially for employed and freelance journalists. *syndicom* and *impressum*, the Swiss media workers' organisations affiliated to the EFJ, report that work-related diseases have increased considerably in this period. In 2014, these organisations started to file legal charges against certain media houses, for the negligence of their legal obligations to protect their employees' health. However, *syndicom* and *impressum* declare, that they would prefer to resolve these issues with a collective agreement, and that prior to calling for justice, they have invited the publishers' organisations repeatedly to take part in collective bargaining.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ acknowledges that fair collective agreements are the most effective way to balance working efficiency on one hand, and the protection of journalists and media workers on the other. The EFJ Annual Meeting observes that the press publishers' companies in the French speaking region of Switzerland have an uninterrupted tradition of collective agreements that are acknowledged to be successful by journalists and media companies alike. In particular, they provide for the possibility of constructive cooperation between social partners, in order to cope with work related developments and issues, such as in the area of working time.

This is equally true in many other countries and regions, where collective agreements are concluded. Furthermore, in the long term, fair collective agreements constantly prove to be clearly beneficial for the productivity and the quality of media. Contrary to cross-industry national laws, such collective agreements provide for tools that may resolve issues in a way, which is specifically adapted to the media industry.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ therefore strongly requests the Swiss publishers' organisations, to accept the invitation of the journalists' organisations, and to enter into collective bargaining. This bargaining shall include all areas of the working conditions that concern journalists and media workers.

The Annual Meeting supports the EFJ Steering Committee and the EFJ Secretariat in its continuous work supporting all the EFJ affiliates in their efforts to achieve equitable working conditions for journalists and media workers through collective bargaining. The Annual Meeting acknowledges the success the EFJ Steering Committee and the secretariat have already had up to now with their strong commitment in campaigning for fair collective agreements.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ instructs the EFJ Steering Committee to strengthen its contacts with relevant European organisations, in particular the European Newspaper Publishers Association. The Steering Committee shall use all appropriate means to convince key leaders of these umbrella organisations, to support constructive and fair collective bargaining within their national affiliates (national media companies' organisations, such as *Schweizer Medien* in Switzerland).

## **2. On trade unions' rights as essential to social dialogue**

*Tabled by Steering Committee*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

The EFJ Steering Committee:

- is appalled by the judicial persecution in Spain against some workers for exercising the right to strike. Dozens of them are under threat of even imprisonment for up to three years for participating in “informative picketing”;
- condemns the draft German law that only allows the main union represented in a company or an economical branch to negotiate collective agreements;
- recalls that in some countries, trade unions are not permitted to represent freelance journalists.

Against this background, the EFJ recalls that:

- the right to collective bargaining and action (ART.28) and the freedom of association (ART 12) are the core labour rights protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- limiting these rights can constitute a violation.

The EFJ Steering Committee:

- Calls on the EFJ Annual Meeting to express European journalists' solidarity with their Spanish and German colleagues whose social rights are threatened;
- Commits itself to remind the European Commission's President, the European Commissioners and MEPs, when they meet them in the coming months, that trade union rights are essential to a valuable social dialogue and are necessary to help freelance journalists fight against the unsteady competition they are facing;
- Invites member unions to express the same message to their MEPs and European Commissioners as to their national authorities.

### **3. On EFJ support in improving labour rights and social dialogue in South Eastern Europe**

*Tabled by Trade Union of Media of Montenegro*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Noting the conclusions from the EFJ/IFJ seminar "Campaigning for journalists' rights in Eastern Europe: Union recruitment, legal protection and social rights", Skopje, Macedonia, 6-7 October 2014,

Recognising the increasingly dramatic situation journalists are working under, in particular in South Eastern Europe, and the almost absolute lack of social dialogue, decent working conditions and employment contracts;

Noting that in particular in private media, EFJ affiliates often have no access and are not allowed to negotiate collective agreements on behalf of their members.

Instructs the EFJ Steering Committee:

- To increase its presence in South Eastern Europe and support in particular its union affiliates to empower them to start to negotiate collective agreements on behalf of their members;
- To raise awareness with the media community in South Eastern Europe, in particular vis-à-vis the employers that proper social dialogue needs to be ensured in the media sector. This at least in EU applicant countries is part of EU *acquis* (body of common rights and obligations that is binding on all the EU member states) and basis of the accession negotiations.

#### **4. On European Initiative for Freelancers in Europe**

*Tabled by SNJ-CGT*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Considering that in many countries non-permanent and/or precarious journalists (*pigistes*) outnumber staff journalists;

Considering that in some countries, freelancers are not given the same rights as staff journalists regarding remuneration, social protection (health, retirement), continuous vocational training, special companies' benefits/allowances and works' councils information, and these journalists without rights are denied the most basic social right of joining a union;

Considering that the remuneration for editorial work cannot be negotiated by mutual agreement between an employer and a journalist, thus placing him/her in a position of weakness;

Considering that a high social status is a guarantee of independence and that in contrast the lack of social status is alienation;

Considering that many freelancers, writers, photojournalists are the first victims of the downsizing of editorial staff and have no option but to leave the profession;

Considering that self-employment is required by many employers to avoid the application of social rights;

Considering that news organisations are increasingly concentrated and controlled by industrial and financial groups in search of new areas of valorisation of their capital;

Considering that the increase of their profits requires outsourcing editorial work to lower the cost of research and information editing;

Considering that the status of a freelancer, not attached to a newsroom, cannot be imposed by an employer but must remain the only free choice of the journalist;

Considering that freelance writers benefit in France since 1974 of a high social status, inserted in the Labour Code and offering freelancers the same protections that apply to employees in case of sickness, maternity, accidents at work, unemployment, retirement, dismissal (including redundancy payments), paid leave and ongoing training, and the implementation of the national collective agreement for journalists;

The EFJ Annual Meeting instructs the Steering Committee to implement all initiatives in order to achieve equal treatment of freelance journalists compared to staff journalists taking into account the most protective provisions in Europe.

## **5. On focus on the rights of workers, regardless of employment status**

*Tabled by National Union of Journalists (NUJ), Ireland*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Welcoming the positive outcome of the ILO Global Dialogue Forum on Employment Relationships in the Media and Culture sector held on 14th–15th May 2014. The Forum emphasised that fundamental principles and rights apply to all workers regardless of their employment status and that competition law should not be used to undermine workers' rights.

The Forum further recognised the need for governments and social partners to promote gender diversity and for good practice guidelines covering internships, apprenticeships, volunteering and other placement schemes. The media industry is one where jobs have become increasingly casualised and where the competition for work has seen a drastic rise in the number of young aspiring journalists being exploited through unpaid internships.

The discussions and the consensus reached, underline the potential benefits of co-ordinated inter-union cooperation in campaigns to defend and enhance the rights of workers, nationally and internationally. These rights are under renewed threat following the decision of the European Commission to negotiate a free trade agreement with the USA (known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or TTIP and other similar international agreements such as TECA, TISA, etc.), which seeks to dismantle the concept of a Social Europe.

In this regard the EFJ, working with the IFJ, is well placed to co-ordinate an EU wide campaign against the undermining of employment rights and the abuse of interns and other forms of work experience programmes.

The AM calls for a renewed focus on the rights of workers, regardless of employment status, in the overall programme of work of the EFJ.

## **6. On Gender and Solidarity**

*Tabled by Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ)*

The EFJ Annual Meeting participants, meeting in Moscow from November 20th-22nd 2014,

Considering that the gender gap is growing because of economic crisis in media field, that despite existing national legislation owners and managers practise

hidden and open gender discrimination, and at the same time raising fundamentalism and aggression in many countries of Europe created new gender stereotypes, and gender discussions in many countries do not include union leaders and union issues,

Believing that gender equality and gender mainstreaming are crucial for a healthy democratic development, and that gender plans and programmes of IFJ since 2001 should help affiliates to develop regional strategies,

Instructs the EFJ Steering Committee to:

- support EFJ gender activities, based on existing activities of European members of IFJ Gender Council, and to start working on a gender map of EFJ, as well as creating a new framework for solidarity and gender work in Europe, including open discussions and conferences and UN meetings, sharing experiences of best practices in gender mainstreaming and equality work in all parts of Europe, involving experts and gender group leaders.

## **7. On EFJ Survey: Confronting Austerity: Financial and Employment Models in Journalism**

*Tabled by EFJ Steering Committee*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

welcomes the survey on [Confronting Austerity: Financial and Employment Models in Journalism](#), the recommendations made at the conference in Vienna, Austria on 21 March 2014 and the evaluation made in Rome, Italy on 26 June 2014.

Noting that entrepreneurial journalism requires journalists to create content, manage finance and marketing, as well as build relationships with audiences. Journalists should be aware of ethical standards and be transparent.

Noting that good quality content is not free. Journalists and their unions should seek new ways of funding journalism such as creating journalism funds, crowd-sourcing, on-demand content etc..

The EFJ shall:

- Promote and adopt policies to help unions reach out to new groups of journalists engaging in diverse ways of doing journalism such as entrepreneurial journalists who are on the increase.
- Promote solidarity among and within unions through the inclusion of all members, including freelancers, youth and women, who are still marginalised in

some unions. They should be treated equally and the rights of these groups must be defended equally.

- Remind that journalists and their unions should not lose sight of the fundamental values and key battles to defend authors' rights, ethics, media independence and pluralism while confronting job cuts.
- Call on media employers to respect the authors' rights of journalists. They should promote and invest more in quality in journalism through negotiations and training schemes.
- Remind that, in responding to the crisis, unions should provide a wider range of services for their members, such as practical trainings for journalists, students, freelancers and other members to equip them to adapt to the rapidly changing job market in journalism.
- Reach out to their young journalists and students.

## **B. On Ethics, Press Freedom and Safety**

### **8. On improved cooperation between Ukrainian and Russian affiliates on journalists' safety and professionalism**

*Tabled by syndicom, Switzerland; impressum, Switzerland; NUJ, UK; NUJ, Ireland; Union of Journalists of Finland; dju in ver.di, Germany; DJV, Germany; SNJ, France; SNJ-CGT, France; RUJ, Russia; Union of Bulgarian Journalists (UBJ), Bulgaria; FSC-CCOO Mass Media Sector, Spain; Croatian Journalist's Association, Croatia; Trade Union of Croatian Journalists (TUCJ), Croatia; Journalists' Association of Serbia, Serbia; Union of Journalists (SJ), Portugal; AGJPB, Belgium; FAPE, Spain; FeSp, Spain; FNSI, Italy; AJM, Macedonia (FYROM); Journalists 'Union of Macedonia and Thrace Daily Newspapers, Greece*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Welcomes the efforts of its Ukrainian and Russian affiliates to improve co-operation on journalists' safety and professionalism.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ strongly supports the ongoing dialogue between representatives of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), the Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine (IMTUU), and the Russian Union of journalists (RUJ), under the umbrella of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the IFJ and the EFJ.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ welcomes the joint statement of representatives of our Ukrainian and Russian Journalist's unions condemning the killing, beating and detention of journalists in the zone of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ reaffirms that dialogue, solidarity and ethical journalism are our allies when reporting in times of conflict. Journalists have a particular responsibility not to engage in propaganda.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ calls on the Ukrainian and Russian authorities to refrain from any measures which could intimidate journalists including barring journalists from entering Ukraine for reporting.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ regrets that to date, seven journalists and media workers have been killed covering the crisis: Ukrainian journalist Vyacheslav Veremiy, Italian photojournalist Andrea Rocchelli and his Russian fixer Andrei Mironov, Russian journalist Igor Kornelyuk and his Russian sound engineer Anton Voloshin, Russian cameraman Anatoly Klyan, and Russian photojournalist Andrei Stenin. The Annual Meeting of the EFJ calls on the Ukrainian government to ensure that those killings are investigated and that those responsible will be punished to the full extent of the law. We call on the Russian and Ukrainian authorities to do their utmost to ensure the safety of journalists.

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ instructs the EFJ Steering Committee in conjunction with the IFJ to:

- Support the co-operation between RUJ, NUJU and IMTUU to produce a joint report on the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the challenges, threats, assaults, detentions and killings that journalists suffered;
- Support the major conference the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media is planning to organise, next year, in order to present the joint RUJ-NUJU-IMTUU report.

## **9. Protection of Media Freedom in Russia**

*Tabled by the Russian union of Journalists (RUJ)*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Considering that scope for media freedom in Russia has shrunk very fast during the last couple of years. New legislative initiatives and newly adopted regulations are mainly aimed at strengthening governmental control over the media, Internet and free flow of information, which makes them rather destructive and seriously limiting media freedom and silencing critical voices. Over 20 amendments to the media laws have been introduced and just one out of them (personal data protection of child-victims while covering their stories by media) seems quite reasonable.

Newly created legal framework puts unprecedented pressure on media, Internet and freedom of expression: defamation was recriminalized, harsh sanctions have been introduced (fines of up to 5 millions rubles for libel), very restrictive regulation on personal data protection jeopardized investigative journalism as such, extrajudicial blocking of Internet web-sites led to closure of a number of



independent online media resources, selective implementation of laws and lack of justice made challenging violation of media rights in the court of law useless. Under these circumstances we consider journalism is at risk as a profession in Russia.

New amendment to Advertising law, starting on January 1, 2015 will make the survival of independent TV stations in Russian regions impossible, new distribution cost leads to closure of many independent print media in Russian regions. Space for independent voices in Russia media field is becoming smaller and smaller. The main independent radio 'Echo of Moscow' hardly survived, and RUJ itself is under strong attacks from officials during recent weeks, and the House of Journalists, the main meeting place of journalists in Moscow, is at risk to be taken by those who would like to make journalists silent.

Journalists are being jailed for "packages" of crimes, some of them look really artificial (made up) and others are clearly a result of criticism expressed by them towards the local authorities. As a separate criminal charge these free speech related cases would not result in imprisonment, with just a light fine as a maximum. But being weighed down by other offences (bribery, false reporting to police, etc) they silence journalists for many years, raising sanctions up to imprisonment. Sergey Reznik, Rostov based journalist and blogger, is a good example. He was found guilty and put in jail for 1.5 years last November and now a new investigation was opened for where he faces up to 3 years of imprisonment. One of accusations against him is an insult of a public official, which was found in one of his posts in Live Journal, in which he compared a regional prosecutor to the tractor driver for his not very neat appearance (all in a publication criticizing corruption in law enforcement system in the region). This new trend raises concerns among media organisations and media community. We succeeded in defending a Khakassia (South Siberia) based journalist Mikhail Afanasiev, achieving a very difficult acquittal in his libel case.

Thus RUJ, together with media legal experts from Mass Media Defense Center and Glasnost Defense Foundation joined their efforts in answering new challenges in all areas – attempts to limit freedom of expression and restrict media freedom via adopting harsh laws, selective repressive application of laws in particular cases by judiciary and law enforcement bodies and impunity, via public campaigns, meetings and letters to decision makers, demanding the inclusion of journalists and experts in discussion on media legislation and protection of diversities and freedom of the media in Russia.

instructs the EFJ Steering Committee to:

- support RUJ efforts and RUJ struggle for freedom of the media and protection of independent journalism in Russia, and to initiate open discussion on protection of freedom of the media on line, as well as initiate side events during UNESCO press Freedom Day and UN Sessions.

## **10. Solidarity with the RUJ and its struggle for independence**

*Tabled by the NUJ, United Kingdom*

The EFJ Annual Meeting notes and supports the strong efforts of the Russian union of Journalists (RUJ) to defend the independence of journalists.

The AM acknowledges the work of the RUJ in defending journalists and media from all sorts of state pressure, censorship and other attempts to threaten press freedom. The AM underlines that neither Russian journalists nor their union RUJ can be identified with their national government or its politics.

Furthermore, the AM congratulates the huge work of the RUJ has done for members, including defending professional ethics, journalistic independence and, in particular, resisting political interference.

We underline that all colleagues all over Europe represented by the EFJ support this fight of the RUJ, which is proved by the fact, that the AM is being held in Moscow.

The AM instructs the SC to strengthen and continue its positive and constructive dialogue based on respect and solidarity among its affiliates, in particular in case of conflict situations.

The SC believes that in this dialogue, EFJ unions should treat each other with respect and refrain from using stereotype and other actions that hinder solidarity. The SC is instructed to seek additional ways to assure this constructive dialogue and to strengthen unity and solidarity among EFJ affiliates, both now and in the future.

## **11. On solidarity with imprisoned journalists and against judicial harassment**

*Tabled by EFJ Steering Committee*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia, on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Stating that journalists and media workers continue to be targeted by the authorities in Eastern European countries and Turkey;

Worrying about the continuing pre-trial detention of journalists and media workers in Europe and particularly in Azerbaijan, Macedonia (FYROM), Russia and Turkey;

Considering the official visit made the EFJ President to our colleague Tomislav Kezarovski - the investigative journalist who was handed a 4.5 year jail term in 2013 for allegedly publishing the name of a protected witness and who is now under house arrest living in difficult conditions pending his upcoming arrest to be published by the Court of Skopje – to express the solidarity of the European journalists for his particular case;

Welcoming the release of imprisoned journalists in Turkey in different politically motivated cases;

Reminding that in Turkey « problems remained, including continued pressure on the media by state officials, widespread self-censorship, the firing of critical journalists, frequent website bans and the fact that freedom of expression and media freedom are in practice hampered by the approach taken by the audio-visual regulator and the judiciary », as mentioned by the last EU Progress Report;

Concerned about the new legal reforms affecting press freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of associations, freedom to publish and the freedom to use online means of expression;

Instructs the EFJ Steering Committee to:

- express the solidarity and the support of the European journalists with our imprisoned colleagues in Europe;
- send official requests for immediate release of all imprisoned journalists to national and EU authorities in Europe.

## **12. On Safety of journalists in Eastern Europe**

*Tabled by Russian Union of Journalists*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Stating that journalists and media employees continue to be targeted in Eastern Europe, especially during the escalation of conflict in Eastern Ukraine;

Reaffirming that the issue of safety and protection of journalists remains one of priority of many journalists unions and organisations in Eastern Europe and post-Soviet countries;

Instructs the EFJ Steering Committee to:

- Welcome and support the daily activity of RUJ on its legal initiatives on safety of journalists, including amendments to Media Law on obligatory insurance (by media owners) of war correspondents; RUJ support of families and children of journalists Killed in Action (KIA); RUJ annual memorial events dedicated to journalists KIA;
- Make the safety of journalists one of the EFJ priority campaigns and work with the IFJ to secure training and education to help achieve this;
- Establish within the EFJ framework of working group engaged in the monitoring, exposing and protesting murders of our colleagues, that in conjunction with human rights and international lawyers' organisations will

cooperate against governments and killers of journalists, in international and national courts.

- Give full support to IFJ-RUJ database of killed journalists and use it as a model for all-European database dedicated to monitoring and investigation of such cases in future.

### **13. On extreme political parties**

*Tabled by the SNJ-CGT*

The EFJ Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Considering that last week in Athens, “Athens Voice” newspaper was set on fire by extremist political groups;

Considering the growing danger in Europe of populist ideas which are a threat to society and citizens because hate and stigmatisation of migrants are the core of these extremist organisations;

Considering that they are trying to use the media to spread all over EU xenophobia, anti-semitism and Islam-phobia;

The AM calls on the EFJ Steering Committee to support the Greek unions’ fight against Golden Dawn with the creation of an observatory against neo-fascist ideology and calls on journalists to observe professional ethics to prevent their use as a tool for propaganda.

## **C. On EU Lobbying**

### **14. On EFJ Manifesto**

*Tabled by NUJ, United Kingdom*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Welcoming the production of the EFJ Manifesto by the Federation in the run up to the 2014 European parliamentary elections. It notes that 50 elected MEPs signed the Manifesto and that the EFJ secretariat has started to liaise with a number of parliamentarians.

Recognising the importance of building an effective relationship with members in the European Parliament, this Annual Meeting instructs the Steering Committee to take steps to set up an EFJ European network comprising members who support the

aims of the Manifesto and the EFJ, to further our work around media and related issues in the European Parliament.

## **15. On Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

*Tabled by NUJ, United Kingdom*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Notes with concern the decision of the European Commission to negotiate for a free trade agreement with the USA (known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or TTIP).

It is clear that the aim is to conduct the negotiations swiftly, with few details being made public, so that the treaty can be signed before its impact is known.

The Annual Meeting welcomes the initiative taken by the EFJ together with other European civil society organisations to take a complaint to the EU Ombudsman over the lack of transparency and public information about the negotiations (the 'Access to Documents' request).

It also welcomes Urgent Motion 13 – 'Threats to European Culture Exception' – passed by last year's IFJ Dublin Congress. This welcomed the decision of the French government to seek exclusion of the audio visual sector from the negotiations. However, it also notes the recent proposals put forward by the EU President elect Jean-Claude Juncker to create a large 'connected digital single market' and that 'we should have the courage to break down national barriers in the regulation of telecommunications, copyright and data protection.'

It is clear that the main aim of the TTIP is to remove regulatory 'barriers' which restrict the potential profits to be made by transnational corporations on both sides of the Atlantic. These so called 'barriers' are in reality some of our prized social standards and environmental regulations, labour rights, food safety rules, digital privacy laws and even new banking safeguards to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis.

In addition to this deregulation agenda, TTIP also seeks to create new markets by opening up public services and government procurement contracts to competition from transnational corporations. More worrying, it seeks to grant foreign investors new rights to sue governments before ad hoc arbitration tribunals for the loss of profits resulting from public policy decisions. This threatens to undermine the most basic principles of democracy in both the EU and the USA.

It also notes the recent publication by the European Trade Union Institute which gave evidence that the economic benefits of the TTIP have been seriously

exaggerated and provided some ideas for an alternative globalisation agenda which would enshrine higher labour and environmental standards into trade negotiations.

This Annual Meeting believes that if successful the TTIP would sweep away what is left of 'Social Europe'. It notes increasing opposition from European civil society and trade unions to many of its provisions. In particular it notes the decision of the Trades Union Council Congress held in the UK in September 2014 to oppose the TTIP proposals as well as expressing concerns over the proposed Trade in Services Agreement, and the Comprehensive Economic Trade agreement (CETA) – the EU/Canada Trade Agreement signed in Ottawa on 26 September and subject to approval by the European Council and the European Parliament.

This Annual Meeting therefore instructs the EFJ Steering Committee to:

- Continue working with other organisations to obtain maximum public disclosure of information and progress and content of negotiations (the Access to Documents request) to ensure proper democratic oversight.
- Alert all EU affiliates to the potential dangers of the TTIP to the concept of Social Europe, to their members and to democracy.
- Work with EU unions and the ETUC to defeat those measures in the TTIP which threaten our collective interests.
- Discuss with the IFJ the setting up of a campaign involving member unions from both sides of the Atlantic.

## **16. On TTIP**

*Tabled by the SNJ-CGT*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Considering that the European Commission negotiates in secret away from the eyes of the people the contents of a " Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)" between the European Union and the United States, a treaty that should be adopted in 2015 members and by the European Parliament;

Considering that this treaty, described by American leaders as an "Economic NATO", concerned 800 million consumers, nearly 50% of global GDP and a third of world trade, and whose promoters boast a beneficial agreement for both areas in terms of jobs and growth without providing evidence for these assertions;

Considering that this treaty will allow multinationals to sue a State in private arbitral court;

Considering that the proposed Grand transatlantic market will lead to a levelling down of social, economic, health, cultural and environmental rules as much in Europe as in the United States;

Considering that "The agreement addresses issues related to intellectual property rights" (paragraph 28 of the mandate of the European Commission), contradicting assertions by France of pushing aside the sector;

Considering that the Transatlantic Treaty largely follows the Trans-Pacific Treaty (being finalized between the United States, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, the Philippines, Laos, Colombia and Indonesia), which provides an enhanced model of the copyright;

The Annual Meeting instructs the Steering Committee to:

- Launch an awareness campaign for member unions oppose a rejection front face to such negotiations that would question the moral and material rights of journalists, like those of all creators;
- Propose to the other international federations (FIA, FIM, UNI MEI, etc.) to act together on this basis;
- Raise awareness of the IFJ and its member unions in the Pacific in order to initiate joint mobilization against the two draft Treaties.

## **17. On Promoting Public Service Broadcasting in Europe**

*Tabled by EFJ Steering Committee*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Confirms that the public interest mission in journalism is best served by independent media. Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) is a key element in maintaining an independent and pluralistic media landscape throughout Europe.

However, PSB is under mounting attack from political pressure and interference, significant cuts in funding, thousands of broadcasting workers being sacked and a resulting deterioration in quality journalism.

This Annual Meeting notes the sudden closure by the Greek government of the public broadcaster ERT and the immediate dismissal of its staff, to be replaced by a government run broadcaster which fails to qualify for recognition by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) as a public service.

Remarking that following the closure of regional channel RTVV-Canal 9 in Valencia the situation of PSB in Spain has continued to decline, and that the lack of independent management of state-owned RTVE and other regional channels have allowed national and regional governments to manipulate editorial content.

Perceiving the financial cuts being imposed on PSB, including countries where PSB is traditionally strong and well-funded, such as in Norway, Finland, Germany, France and the UK, resulting in millions of Euros being removed from budgets, thousands of jobs being cut and a marked reduction in quality programming and news coverage.

For example, for the BBC, where discussions are already beginning concerning the next licence fee, there are strong calls from politicians for the fee to be abolished and replaced by subscription payments – a financial disaster if approved by government. In Finland, YLE is expected a reduction of 10 million euros resulting in job cuts.

Noting in Italy the urgent need for a legislative reform of the criteria of the nominations of administrators who are to guarantee independence of the psb from political power.

Preoccupied by the cuts of the actual psb fund for 2014 and the one announced for 2015. Calling for urgent legislation to prevent government from reducing the license fee and guarantee sufficient resources to public service broadcasting in Italy.

Instructs the EFJ Steering Committee in cooperation with BREG to:

- Carry out a study to assess the impact of a shrinking PSB on media pluralism and the current status of PSB across Europe in terms of funding, independence and diversity, and content quality;
- Contact relevant stakeholders and MEPs including those who signed the EFJ Journalists' Manifesto to honour their commitment and participate in an EFJ campaign for a free, independent and pluralistic PSB system throughout Europe;
- Advocate the need for a well-funded PSB that is independent from political and commercial pressure throughout Europe.

## **18. On Defending Authors' Rights of Journalists**

*Tabled by SNJ-CGT*

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Considering that the letter from Jean-Claude Juncker, 10 September 2014 addressed to the Commissioner for the Single Market, Andus Ansip, in which the President of the European Commission calls for "breaking down national barriers in the field of telecom regulation, the right to copyright and data protection " in order to "make better use of the opportunities offered by digital technologies, which are borderless" is an aggression on the creators and journalists in particular;

Considering that for President Juncker, who declared in Paris in 2005 on the Meetings for Europe of culture that "culture does not lend itself to harmonization, does not lend itself to standardization, does not lend itself to stupid rules", it is an unprecedented denial;



Is aware of the concern about Andrus Ansip, former Prime Minister of Estonia, a former banker and member of several privatisation agencies in his country;

Considering, with the French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier, that "Undermining the authors is even more absurd when you consider that this will result in strengthening the great traders of our works and the giants of the Net that have a hyper benevolence from the Commission since we accept that they pay taxes discount and they bypass all the rules of funding support and exhibition of European works."

Considering, with the French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier, that "no one said that authors' rights should be sacred. This right, which combines the author of a work to its success and which owes so much to Beaumarchais, is a right of absolute modernity that has evolved over time and with technical developments. He can still move. He even has to in order to make authors' rights law the law of authors and a right that cannot be reduced to the protection of economic actors. "

The Annual Meeting of the EFJ mandates the Steering Committee in cooperation with AREG:

- to meet as soon as possible all European creators' organisations committed to the defence of authors' rights to create the conditions opposite to the ambitions of the European Commission;
- to ask with all organizations involved in the defense of authors' rights a meeting with Jean-Claude Juncker regarding the importance of authors' rights;
- to initiate an awareness campaign for European journalists on the need for authors' rights protection, the pillar of freedom of information.

The Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), meeting in Moscow, Russia on 21st-22nd November 2014,

Considering that the communication plan for 2015-2019 to "Reconnect Europe to its citizens", initiated by the Committee of the Regions, is a new attempt to include the Community bodies in the information content in producing the information to be communicated;

Considering that this is not up to European authorities to ensure "communication" of concrete effects of European policies on the lives of citizens, but to journalists;

Considering that the objective of concluding partnership agreements with 500 television channels, radio stations and local newspapers across Europe and develop communication activities with 5,000 territorial authorities 'Friends of Europe' to the media reflects a distrust vis-à-vis journalists and their willingness to relay official information written by communicators;

The EFJ Annual Meeting instructs the EFJ Steering Committee:

- to demand the revocation of this communication plan offending freedom of information;
- to alert journalists of the dangers of this communication plan project;
- to alert journalists of the increasing dangers of the development of communication, in all areas, at the expense of complete, accurate and unbiased information.