

## **SLOVAKIA: EPP CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRAFT MEDIA LAW**

15-02-2008

The European People's Party (EPP) is concerned with the draft Media Law on which discussions started yesterday severely limiting freedom of expression and media freedoms by the Slovak Parliament on the proposal of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

The EPP considers freedom of expression to be the backbone of a democratic society. As stated in the European Convention on Human Rights, freedom of expression includes freedom to state opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by the public authority. In the opinion of the EPP, Media legislation should protect these freedoms and meet the interest of the public to receive information from different sources.

The EPP believes that the objections raised against the draft Media Law by the Slovak Media Organizations, various non-governmental organizations, by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and by the parties of the Slovak opposition must be taken into consideration in the process of its adoption.

Therefore, the EPP calls upon the Government of the Slovak Republic and upon the political parties represented in the Government to pursue the adoption of a law meeting European principles and protecting our shared values in dialogue with all the political parties in the country.

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