



Press release

Embargo: 2 May 2010

The Open Cyprus Coalition celebrates World Press Freedom Day.

The Open Cyprus Coalition is marking World Press Freedom Day, 3 May 2010, by renewing its call for full recognition of the right of access to information in Cyprus.

Established by UN in 1993, World Press Freedom Day is this year dedicated to the Right to Know – the right of all, including journalists, to have access to information held by government and other public bodies.

According to the UNESCO the Right to Know is an essential part of freedom of expression and freedom of the media. It has been recognised as a fundamental human right at the international level but is still not fully respected in law or in practice in Cyprus.

The Open Cyprus Coalition is a bi-communal initiative to promote the right to access information held by public bodies. Journalists are invited to join and support the Coalition.

“Press freedom guarantees and access to information mechanisms should become a priority for all democratic institutions in Cyprus,” said xxx, xxx of KAB.

“Democratic participation and government transparency depend on people who are well informed”, said xxx, xxx of IKME.

The Open Cyprus Coalition will be carrying out legal analysis, training for civil society, and monitoring of current levels of transparency. It will hold public consultations on recommendations for advancing the right to know in Cyprus. It is currently formed of the Cyprus EU Association (Kıbrıs AB Derneği, KAB), the Socio-political Studies Institute (Ιδρυμα Κοινωνικοπολιτικών Μελετών, IKME) and Access-Info Europe.

“Journalists play an important role in ensuring the right of the wider public to engage in public debate in an informed manner. Public bodies should therefore respond fully to journalists’ requests for information”, said xxx, xxx of Access-Info Europe.

The Open Cyprus Coalition would like to direct journalists and all citizens to the website accessinfocyprus.eu where various resources, toolkits and guidelines can be found and they can sign up to join the Coalition.

Note for editors:

Access Info Europe is an international human rights organization based in Madrid, which works to promote a strong and functioning Right of Access to Information in Europe and globally. <http://www.access-info.org/>

Helen Darbshire, Executive Director Access Info Europe
Helen@access-info.org / +34 913665344

KAB is founded by a group of Civil Society volunteers in 2006 with the aim of ensuring that information flow among the Turkish Cypriots and the international community. <http://www.cypruseu.org>

Ilke Dagli, Cyprus EU Association Committee member
ilkedagli@gmail.com / +90 542 8846858

IKME was registered in 2002 in Cyprus as a Non Governmental Organisation aiming to contribute to the prevalence of freedom, democracy, socialism and the European values. <http://www.ikme.eu>

Orestis Tringuides
Orestis@tringuides.com / +35 799519776



This project is funded by the EU. This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of OPEN CYPRUS COALITION and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union..