

CivilMédia



South East European Network
for Professionalization of Media

KROES Neelie
Vice President
of The European Commission
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Dear Mrs Vice President,

We, the undersigned NGOs would kindly draw your attention to the latest chapter of the saga of the Hungarian Klubradio.

In spite of the fact that in April 2013 the Court of second instance ruled again in both spectrum cases in favor of the radio and against the Media Council, the Media Council implemented only one of the rulings, the second one has been ignored. Recently we became aware of the fact that the Media Council filed a new legal procedure against the second ruling at the Kuria, the Supreme Court of Hungary.

Since the establishment of the Media Council, Klubradio is working in an absolutely insecure legal environment. Despite the fact that the radio won in seven cases at bar, it is still not allowed to use the frequency, which Klubradio won in concern already in 2010 under the regime of the former media authority. The characteristics of that frequency – in contrast with the current used one – would let the radio work as a community radio hence the usage of the frequency would be free.

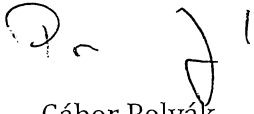
At the moment Klubradio is the only public talk-radio who has to pay for using a frequency. Other talk-radios – also those public radios who are engaged to the right wing – are allowed to work and expand as community radios. Meanwhile the Klubradio lost – with two exceptions – all of its channels in the countryside as a consequence of the rulings of the Media Council.

By this act the Media Council not only undermines the rule of law but also tries to hinder the media pluralism.

We kindly ask you to support by all of your means the implementation of the ruling of the Court and that an important source of political information could function without restrictions, particularly because the next parliamentary election will take place next April or May.

Budapest, 14 October 2013

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the signatures:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gábor Polyák', written in a cursive style.

Gábor Polyák

leader

Mertek Media Monitor