

European Press Federation

## **New European Journalist's association: Also for part-time journalists**

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**Founded in 2006, the European Press Federation (EPF) supports freelance and part-time journalists and media representatives around Europe. The EPF is a service orientated career and sector association. All information can be found at: [www.ep-fed.eu](http://www.ep-fed.eu).**

### **Rapid membership development**

Just a few months after the foundation of the federation by experienced press professionals, journalists and branch experts, the EPF already has a four figure membership. EPF has members from 15 different European countries. The association represents the interests of its members, free from political connections, trade unions, employer's associations and other third parties. "This development proves that the founding of the association on a European level was the right thing to do" EPF chairman Timm Trustaedt explains this success. "Up till now freelance journalists or part-time journalists and media representatives have had no such European association representing their interests. And that, even though the freelance and part-time journalists play an important, if not the largest role in the democratisation of the media."

### **Sector crisis hits established associations**

The number of freelance and part-time journalists is steadily increasing for important reasons: Many media concerns and newspaper publishers are facing crises. Advertisements and classifieds are receding, readers, listeners and viewers are disappearing.

This development is not without consequences. Less readers and less income from advertising leads to editorial offices being outsourced and employees being laid off. The latter leads to an increase in the requirement for freelance journalists. More and more journalists are losing their regular employment and are re-employed as freelancers. The career associations or (journalistic) trade unions that only represent journalists with regular employment are thereby increasingly losing their legitimacy. It is often the case that being a full-time journalist is an important requirement in order to become a member of these associations.

However the crisis also offers opportunities: New forms of media companies and entrepreneurs are surfacing: Internet newspapers, press portals, blogs... The changes in the media and press scene are accompanied by new chances; the spectrum of journalistic activities is wide enough. Hereby, we are experiencing a new form of press freedom and journalism which could hardly be more democratic and transparent. The individual has possibilities, independent and free from economic constraints, to achieve a wide publicity. Therefore, the European Press Federation sees it as its duty to provide journalists and representatives of the media the same work assistance that is usually only provided to journalists with regular employment, such as an international press card.

“Our members naturally receive an accepted press card. After all they represent the press” ensures Timm Trustaedt. The European press card which is also provided to part-time journalists is a special characteristic of the EPF. Furthermore, the EPF members receive access to valuable services such as online workshops for career qualifications, financial services, a press sign for their car, a job market and much more. The EPF members can take advantage of these services without permanently having to prove that they are full-time journalists, which is mostly the case in other journalistic associations.

**Statistics:**

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Activation: Immediate

We would appreciate it if we could be provided with a sample of the receipt.

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