Majda Širca, Minister of Culture, Republic of Slovenia

In Slovenia, two laws governing the media are being amended this year: the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act and the Media Act.

Our fundamental goal is to increase the autonomy of the media.

Our deliberations are focused on depoliticising the media and on strengthening (increasing) the social responsibility of the media.

It has become evident, however, that we have no answers on the topic of "internal democratisation" of the media – a question that has been brought about in modern times by new technologies and new ways of communication. And we know that this is literally a revolution in communication.

Practice is overtaking us. There are as yet no rules (answers, clear guidelines) in Europe.

Let me mention some of the dilemmas facing us:

The existing Slovenian legislation enables state support for media programmes. Since this support can be highly politically motivated, we are not in favour of it. But the financial crisis has also hit the media. The media are being commercialised and increasingly guided by capital – the capital that has "survived".

We are asking ourselves what the state can do to help the media without undermining autonomy. Should it support only those that have more difficulty in surviving in the market? If so, how should it do that without locking them into dependence? Which media are supposed to survive?

New regulation of the media raises another key question, that of freedom. We suddenly enjoy enormous freedom: in modern media networks, anyone can be a journalist, commentator, author, etc. We live in a world of information inflation. We ourselves select information and produce it.

This has advantages as well as disadvantages. Let me point out some of the "traps" associated with this:

- Does this revolution (which is like the industrial revolution) undermine authority (of the press)?
- Can "total" freedom of expression (especially that which obstructs the freedom of another person, by e.g. intolerance, assault on human dignity, rights, etc.) be controlled at all?
- Can we make a distinction between what is important and what is unimportant?
- Can we control information at all?

But have we not been striving the whole time to avoid controlling it?

These are the dilemmas we are faced with: too much or too little freedom?