

EFJ Statement
20 December 2007

EFJ Concerned about Editorial Interference in Slovenian Media

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), the regional organisation of the International Federation of Journalists, today urged Slovenia's Delo media group to choose a new editor-in-chief for *Mag* that has the support of the journalists working for the magazine.

The EFJ and its member unions throughout Europe have learned of increasing political and economic interference with the editorial policy at weekly Slovenian magazine *Mag*.

The EFJ called on the Delo Supervisory Board to appoint the new editor-in-chief who is supported by the magazine's staff. A candidate currently being considered for the post has already been rejected by the editorial board, which represents the magazine's staff.

"Press freedom can only exist when there is respect for editorial independence and the professional status of journalists is respected," said Arne König, the chair of the EFJ. "We have been very concerned about developments in the media in Slovenia recently and hope that dialogue between management and the editorial board is fruitful and editorial independence will be guaranteed in the future at *Mag*."

The EFJ supports the actions taken so far by its affiliate, the Slovenian Association of Journalists, and warns that unilateral appointments or dismissals of high-level editors without prior approval from journalists has proven to have very negative effects on media. According to Slovenian law, journalists and the editorial boards have autonomy in formulating their editorial policy without interference by public or private interests.