

The Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung Athens and the Foreign Press Association of Greece
invite you to our event:

“Media in Greece: Watchdog or Lapdog?”

Panel Discussion

Friday, 18.11.2022 at 11.00am-1:00pm

Hotel Electra Palace Athens

Navarchou Nikodimou 18-20, Athens 105 57

Hall ALKYONI

The surveillance of a journalist, the murder of a reporter and a number of lawsuits against media (“SLAPPS”) highlight the deterioration of media freedom in Greece.

The urgency of this topic becomes clear once the role of the media in a functioning democracy is highlighted. Safety issues for journalists, close and non-transparent relationships between media outlets and the government, as well as (self-)censorship can have tremendous consequences for the democratic process. In a country where journalists are prevented from reporting critically on the government, citizens’ freedom of information can no longer be ensured. Eventually, electoral decisions are affected as the possibility for citizens to develop a substantiated and informed opinion is impeded.

To give this subject a stage, our event brings together different journalists that shall provide the audience with a critical insight into the current state of press freedom in Greece.

Hence, during the event we aim to discuss the following key questions:

- How did we end up in a situation like this, how alarming is the state of press freedom and what are the reasons for this assessment?
- Who is to blame? Is it censorship or self-censorship?
- What implications does this have for democracy in Greece?
- What can be done about it?

The event will be held in English and Greek. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Program

- 11:00 am* **Welcoming words**
Arne Schildberg, Director FES Athens
- 11:05 am* **Introduction**
Nektaria Stamouli, President of the Foreign Press Association in Greece
- 11:15 am* **Panel discussion**
- Panelists:
- Stavros Malichudis**, Reporters United and Solomon
Apostolis Fotiadis, freelance reporter and researcher
Verena Schäler, ARD correspondent, based in Athens
Eliza Triantafyllou, Inside Story
- Chair:
- Nektaria Stamouli**, President of the Foreign Press Association in Greece
- 12:00 pm* **Open discussion with the audience**
- 1:00 pm* **Coffee reception**
- 1:30 pm* **End of the event**