[DE] Act Strengthening Press Freedom Adopted

IRIS 2012-7:1/14

Anne Yliniva-Hoffmann
Institute of European Media Law (EMR), Saarbrücken/Brussels

On 25 June 2012, the *Bundestag* adopted the Act strengthening the freedom of the press in the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure (PrStG). On 11 May 2012, the German *Bundesrat* (upper house of parliament) had approved the bill and the *Bundestag* (lower house of parliament) had previously voted to adopt the bill tabled by the Federal Government without any amendments (see IRIS 2012-5/13 and IRIS 2010-9/22).

Under the bill, press freedom will be strengthened through improved protection for journalists and their sources. To this end, Article 353b of the *Strafgesetzbuch* (Criminal Code - StGB; breaches of official secrecy and special secrecy obligations) and Article 97(5)(2) of the *Strafprozessordnung* (Code of Criminal Procedure - StPO; items that cannot be confiscated) are amended in journalists' favour.

Gesetz zur Stärkung der Pressefreiheit im Straf- und Strafprozessrecht vom 25. Juni 2012

http://www.bgbl.de/Xaver/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger_BGBl&start=//*[@attr_id=%27bgbl112s1374.pdf%27]

Act strengthening the freedom of the press in the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure (PrStG) of 25 June 2012

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