



Bundesverband Offene Kanäle e.V.

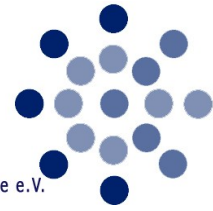
## Kassel Commitment

With „European Parliament resolution of 25 September 2008 on Community Media in Europe“ the parliament “calls on the Commission and the Member States to take into account the contents of the resolution by defining community media as ... engaging primarily in activities of public and civil society interest, serving clearly defined objectives which always include social value and contribute to intercultural dialogue ...”.

The “Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the role of community media in promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue”, adopted on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2009, “invites community media to be conscious of their role in promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue and, to this end, to elaborate and adopt or, if appropriate, review codes of professional ethics or internal guidelines and to ensure that they are respected.”

With “Europe 2020 strategy” the European Council in spring 2010 set the course for a common approach for politicians in the member states. Inclusive growth and social solidarity are established as essential items, and the states are requested to put in place effective anti-discrimination measures: “Empowering people ... will help to fight social exclusion.”

“Civil society interest”, “social cohesion”, “fight against social exclusion”: These three benchmarks, mentioned by the three European boards, were key themes during the symposium “Social gaps – social bridges: European community media as mediators”, conducted by Federal Association of Open Channels and Hessian State Media Authority on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 in Kassel.



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We, the participants of the symposium, therefore declare today:

- We assure that the directives made upon us by the European Parliament and the Committee of Ministers are always priority for our activities.
- We will follow the initiative of the Committee of Ministers “to be conscious of our role in promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue” and jointly accept the claim to “elaborate and adopt or, if appropriate, review codes of professional ethics or internal guidelines and to ensure that they are respected”.
- According to our capabilities we will fight against social exclusion. We will approach marginalized groups and help and empower them to assume more activities in civic society by using the opportunities available with community media.
- We guarantee to our civic societies non-discriminatory access to all tools of communication existing in community media.

Simultaneously we call upon the European member states

- to take to heart the recommendations made to them by the European Parliament and Committee of Ministers and “to give legal recognition to community media as a distinct group alongside commercial and public media where such recognition is still lacking” and
- to follow the call “to support community media more actively in order to ensure media pluralism”.

Kassel, 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2012