



# STATEMENT ON THE THREAT TO THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTIC SOURCES IN FINLAND

**For the attention of:**  
**Ministry of Justice**  
**Finland**

31 August 2009

The European Newspaper Publishers' Association (ENPA) would like to express its concerns about the proposal of the ministry's working group (KM 2009:2) to reduce the protection of journalistic sources in Finland. In our view, the broad transferral of competence on orders of source disclosure from judicial courts to police authorities is against universally accepted principles of freedom of the press.

ENPA fails to see the objective of introducing legislation that tasks criminal investigators with striking the sensitive balance between freedom of expression and its necessary restrictions.

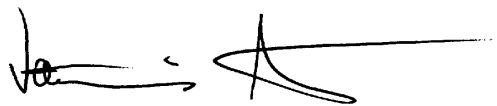
In a democratic society, this should unquestionably be a matter of judicial deliberation. Similar legislative solutions are not being proposed in other EU countries.

As pointed out by the European Court of Human Rights, the efficiency of crime investigation does not per se legitimate restrictions concerning the protection of sources (e.g. in case *Goodwin v. UK*, 27<sup>th</sup> March 1996). ENPA strongly recommends the withdrawal of this proposal.

ENPA President Valdo Lehari Jr and Executive Director Valtteri Niiranen are ready to meet the respective governmental officials and/or Minister in order to explain our position and the overall situation in Europe.



Valdo Lehari Jr.  
ENPA President



Valtteri Niiranen  
ENPA Executive Director



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