

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/ukraine-rwb-opposes-creation-of-02-12-2014,47325.html>

Europe/Ex-USSR - Ukraine

Retrograde step

RWB opposes creation of information ministry

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Reporters Without Borders firmly opposes the planned creation of a Ukrainian information ministry, announced today. Without civil society being consulted, parliament is expected to ratify its creation when it votes on the new government later today.

An information ministry has been included in the proposed new government. Its creation, against the backdrop of an information war with Russia, has surprised journalists and media freedom organizations, which were not consulted.

"Putting the government in charge of 'information policy' would be major retrograde step that would open the way to grave excesses," Reporters Without Borders secretary-general Christophe Deloire said.

"In a democratic society, the media should not be regulated by the government. The creation of an information ministry is the worst of all possible responses to the serious challenges that the government is facing."

Media independence and media freedom are the best weapons against propaganda. Enlisting journalists in a government-managed information war would just undermine the public's confidence in the national media. Reporters Without Borders urges Ukraine's parliamentarians to oppose this proposal.
