

## EVENT NOTICE | PRESS RELEASE

### Panel discussion: Democracy overruled? The future of media and justice in Turkey

Date: Wednesday 10 October 2018, 5pm

Location: Frankfurt Book Fair, Forum Börsenverein, Hall 3.1, Stand H85

When a country lacks an unbiased news media and independent courts of law, is it still possible to speak of a democracy? In Turkey today, cultural professionals, media representatives as well as judges and lawyers cannot express critical opinions or practice their profession without fear of being persecuted and sent to prison. Indeed, media and judicial independence in the country have been severely weakened.

At a joint event organised by Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels (German Publishers and Booksellers Association), Law Publishers in Europe and the European Association of Judges, representatives of the media and judiciary will have an opportunity to speak their minds about this disappointing situation. Judges from different countries will examine the conditions facing legal courts in Turkey, which they also portray in their latest book “Democracy falling apart”. Börsenverein Managing Director Alexander Skipis – a supporter of freedom for authors, publishers and booksellers in Turkey – will speak about the current state of freedom of expression in that country.

The following speakers will participate in the panel at the Frankfurt Book Fair:

- Thomas Stadelmann (Federal Judge, Switzerland, publisher “Democracy falling apart”)
- José Igreja Matos (President of the European Association of Judges)
- Alexander Skipis (Managing Director, Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels)
- as well as another legal expert from Turkey

Media representatives are invited to cover the event. Please write an e-mail to [presse@boev.de](mailto:presse@boev.de) to receive press accreditation.

Book tip: “Democracy falling apart”, Edited by Thomas Stadelmann, ISBN 978-3-7272-2654-0.

The event is part of the campaign „On The Same Page“ launched by Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels and Frankfurter Buchmesse on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of human rights. [www.buchmesse.de/onthesamepage](http://www.buchmesse.de/onthesamepage)

**About Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels (German Publishers and Booksellers Association):** Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels (German Publishers and Booksellers Association) represents the interests of Germany's book industry in the political and public spheres. Founded in 1825, it currently has roughly 5,000 members, including booksellers, publishers, wholesalers and other media companies. Börsenverein runs the annual Frankfurt Book Fair, awards the annual Peace Prize of the German Book Trade and the German Book Prize and works continuously to foster reading and to defend the right to freedom of expression. [www.boersenverein.de](http://www.boersenverein.de)

**About Law Publishers in Europe:**

Law Publishers in Europe (LPE) is an initiative founded in 1983 by some of the most well-known European legal publishers. At the moment, it has eleven members: Almedina S.A., Portugal; C.H.Beck, Germany; Giuffrè Editore S.P.A., Italy; Karnov Group, Denmark; Kluwer International Group, Netherlands; Lexis Nexis, France; MANZ, Austria; Stämpfli Verlag AG, Switzerland; Thomson Reuters Legal, United Kingdom; Thomson Reuters Aranzadi, Spain; Wolters Kluwer, Poland.

**About the European Association of Judges:**

The European Association of Judges (EAJ) is a regional organisation (regional group) within the International Association of Judges. At the moment, its members comprise 44 national associations from all over Europe. The EAJ seeks in particular to strengthen and promote the rule of law and the independence and impartiality of judiciaries in Europe and all member states.

**Media contacts:**

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