

IAB Press Release on the Primary Elections Law in Chile

The International Association of Broadcasting - IAB – notes with concern an amendment to the Primary Elections Law, which imposes local, regional and national over-the-air TV channels in Chile, a new two-minute free slot for each pre-candidate during 30 days.

This imposition seriously affects freedom of television programming by imposing certain content and is discriminatory with respect to the various media and advertising ways that operate in today's reality.

The Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights states: "Restrictions to the free circulation of ideas and opinions, as well as the arbitrary imposition of information and the imposition of obstacles to the free flow of information violate the right to freedom of expression."

The Hertzian waves and frequencies are assets of the international community and are allocated to each State through international agreements and regulations, so that States with respect to radio frequencies they have been assigned, should limit their powers to the distribution and administration of the same.

IAB respectfully urges the Chilean authorities to rectify this situation that violates international standards and fundamental principles of constitutional order.

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