

The press discredited

A drowning man has to be rescued. The fire brigade arrives with equipment and countless volunteers. The situation of the exhausted man in the lake becomes more hopeless with every passing second, but the director of operations decides instead to pump more water into the lake. The helpers follow his orders. The result: The drowning man dies; he dies of exhaustion from trying to stay afloat.

In the piece of theatre which is the Euro rescue, the drowning man is the Euro; the countless helpers and machinery are the governments, councils, commissions, auditors, experts, economists, press, judiciary and others, who demand ludicrous consultation fees, commission costs and subsidisation in order to demonstrate power, who do not want to dirty their own nests, and whose sole concern is to buy more time to secure their own extravagant livelihood.

The lake in our story is made up of all the Euro countries, who more or less indifferently believe in being able to save the Euro. Their actions: All aid is provided from loans, i.e. debts, which can only be repaid by further debts. Greece stands first in the queue. The two tranches already paid out have been followed by others (another one just recently), and more will follow, if politics continues the madness which it has already instigated. This reduces the debt of the Greeks for a short time, but creates debts in the budgets of the supporting countries, who for years have only been financing themselves by borrowing. The community is thereby also violating its own self-imposed rules, because no country may give another country financial support (the so-called "No Bail-Out clause"), as well as prohibited state financing by the ECB, which contravenes the statutes of the ECB prohibiting the financing of countries, and cancellation of debt, which contravenes general banking regulations, and doctored budgets and politically-favourable reports of the Troika. All this hoopla will continue until 2022, at least if the policy which is currently in control is still in effect.

It will be difficult enough to explain all of this to our children, and the Alliance for Democracy has pointed out the nonsense of this kind of rescue in several articles, not least because according to Art. 20 Para. 4 GG it is the right, and even the duty of citizens to put up resistance, if the order of equality, liberty, fraternity, and so the order of the rule of law, which must be social, federal and democratic (Art. 20 Para. 1 GG) is at risk. It is for this reason that Germany is a Republic. And we Germans may have lost our pride (quite rightly), but we should have at least learned from history, that any effort that could jeopardize this order, which resulted from the experiences of a senseless war, must be combated. Unfortunately, the forces of our country, in spite of all possibilities to do something other than to pump water into a lake to save a drowning man, see this as the only solution. This is so disgusting and deserves the prize for the best political blunder, which was recently awarded in Oslo.

The worst thing is that those in charge of this debacle are lying. And to assist them, they have the media, who seem to have completely abandoned independent thought and action.

It is certainly always difficult to assess the value of the news. Experience and sense stand in contrast to their own advantage and professional advancement. The appeal of becoming famous by a piece of news may be of interest for reporters and editors alike, and it is always a question of the attitude and the ethics of a profession, to decide at some time between these two poles, of what issue is to become an issue at all, and when this issue will be raised in the relevant newspaper. In this way the matter is not served of comprehensively informing people, of revealing mistakes, of serving only truthfulness, even if this involves mistakes that must be admitted, and also to serve human dignity, which those have whose integrity must be questioned by the very nature of their office, and about which the press reports; because this is solely the task of those who provide such information.

Reporters decide on behalf of their readers; Unfortunately, too few editors ask themselves about the effect of this news. They decide against an issue because they fear trouble, fear they might lose their jobs or their reputation among their colleagues – the other version is: They decide definitely in favour of an issue in order to make a name for themselves. It is the right of the journalist to make use of this freedom enshrined in the Constitution, to speak, to oppose, to criticise. Journalists are meant to preserve fundamental rights and to uncover maladministration. This protection of democracy is both a right and also an obligation – towards the reader and towards democracy. The freedom of the press is not conferred by parties, politicians, lobbyists, trade associations, offices or any other authorities; the freedom of the press corresponds to the mandate of journalists to defend the Constitution and the role of journalists is: The task assigned by the citizen to gather, evaluate and make available information, and not for the benefit of one of the above or any other institutions, but solely as representatives of the people. Journalists, like politicians, also have to preserve constitutional trust. And for this reason journalists are subject only to the justification of the Federal Constitutional Court. And it is therefore not subject to discussion whether an item of news is printable or not: Democracy spans a wide arc, under which every opinion may find appropriate believers, under which every reader may find what concerns him. Even the attempt to restrict this spectrum is unconstitutional.

In addition to the obligation to provide information, journalists have the duty of criticism. This criticism is an essential measure in the discussion about how democratic a democracy really is. Criticism may not therefore be prohibited. This includes the influencing of journalists before the articles appear in the media, as well as the suppression of information because the prospect of its

being printed is too low. And at this point we come to the senior editors: the editors-in-chief, the controllers of the information flow. Their tasks are the same as those of the writers and the evaluating editors; their intentions are unfortunately often subject to economic, political or other interests. There is a great danger of forgetting this task for the benefit of political influence to increase one's own importance; exerting influence, helping one party to the top, or a government to gain prestige amongst the people – these are not part of the mandate of a chief editor, who is really nothing more than a journalist.

In this sense it can almost be regarded as a failure of an entire professional group, when the reporting on the subject of the Euro rescue is not seen as an issue at all. Apart from a few ventures, at least in part to report how the Merkel government, and the governments of all Euro countries have failed, and the press has proved to be as helpless, this will hopefully go down history as the only example of such mass failure. All those journalists involved will have to put up with the accusation of why they did not report significantly sooner about the hopelessness of the rescue of the Euro, but instead waited until such a rescue was no longer possible. They, just like the world of politics, have thereby violated their mandate as representatives of the people, and unjustly dabbled in politics, instead of getting on with their work of informing the people about what politics is doing, what it is not doing or what it should do.

So when the Euro finally drowns in the lake of Europe, the press will stir itself to report on this, will look for the guilty parties, and will pass its judgement. But it will probably not be self-critical enough to see how much of the guilt should be laid at their door. We shall see.

And now we can already see how journalism functions in times of crisis by the example of the [“Wirtschaftswoche”](#) (No. 47, of 19.11.12) and also [“Focus money”](#) (No. 47, of 14.11.12), in which Thilo Sarrazin as an ex-Bundesbank member speaks of “European emotionalism”, but fails to assign any direct guilt as a member of the SPD (the SPD provided the majority in the voting which gave rise to the crisis): The economy, which has degenerated into a club of bankrupts due to the debt policy of the clique of failures, has pulled the plug, and the rumour is spreading: the Euro has met its end. News which should have been reported two years ago, but only now can be news which can be reported.

Let us look at the matter more closely: This news is no news for the reader. It is addressed to this government and is telling it: The economy will not tolerate a total collapse of the currency and this government, which continues to work to this end, will not be tolerated by the economy from the

moment when the crash becomes imminent. It is a disgrace that journalists obviously print according to instructions.

This earns the award of the “Bombshell of the Week”. And we wish all those responsible who allowed themselves to be politically muzzled a good conscience!

The Alliance for Democracy believes that this bombshell is equally deserved by those in ministries, auditors’ offices, business associations, academies, colleges, universities and other institutions who accepted fees for falsified balance sheets and fudged reports, and also allowed themselves to be muzzled, instead of speaking and writing the truth. Even the preservation of one’s own existence in no way justifies the harm done to millions of people in Europe without regard to their livelihood. This concerns the supporting countries who now shoulder the liability, who must now accept their share of guarantees and liability, and also corresponding shares of the support of the ECB for the supported countries and the rescue of their banks. We call on all these bodies: You are the water that is being pumped into the lake of Europe; for two years now this has simply created a higher and more dangerous water level, and done nothing to control or remedy the crisis. And if there is ever a Tribunal which calls those responsible to book: the Alliance for Democracy says “out”!