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Minority daily newspaper association officially set up

Brussels 2/8/01, by Margret Oberhofer

The European Association of Daily Newspapers in Minority and Regional Languages, MIDAS, was set up officially last Saturday in Bozen/Bolzano. The capital of the northern Italian province Southtyrol is also the base of the non-profit organisation. The aim of the association, representing ten linguistic minority communities in Europe, is to exchange information, co-ordinate strategies and increase co-operation in publishing, marketing, as well as in lobbying at EU-institutions.

'The editors and publishers of minority newspapers want to pass on their experiences in order to encourage the foundation and the continued existence of other dailies', says Toni Ebner, President of MIDAS and Editor-in-Chief of the German daily 'Dolomiten' in Southtyrol.

The board that signed the foundation document, consist of editors representing the Slovene minority in Italy, the Catalans, the Basques, the Swedish-speaking Finns, the Danish speakers in northern Germany and the Hungarian speakers in Slovakia.

Edita Slezáková, Editor of the Hungarian newspaper in Slovakia 'Új Szó', says 'through MIDAS we also want to encourage journalists of the majority press to write about minorities and inform the broad public about their situation'. (EL/Margret)

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