



PC/del

9 May 2024

Dear Legislator

I am writing to you on behalf of the union Bectu, a Sector of Prospect, which represents workers in the broadcasting and entertainment industry in the UK, to express our alarm and concern that the government of the Argentine Republic has intervened in the management of the public media companies (Canal 7 and the educational channels Encuentro, Paka Paka and Depor TV), with the aim of privatising, emptying and/or destroying them.

Delegating public communication to the market will result in the emptying of spaces that guarantee the diversity of cultural expression and, fundamentally, the right to reliable information. Public media are fundamental to guarantee information pluralism, cultural diversity and the strengthening of democracy. Moreover, they represent a fundamental and indispensable tool in democratic societies. No developed country in the world lacks a public media system.

In the UK Public Service Broadcasting and the BBC, in particular, plays an integral role in the success of our creative industries and its independence is crucial to our democracy, to providing accurate and balanced news reporting. It plays a significant role in nurturing and supporting diverse voices and freedom of expression as well as contributing to the soft power of the UK.

The world is watching closely the evolution of this attack on public communication and the important role that the Congress of the Republic of Argentina is playing at this juncture. We stand in solidarity with, support, and accompany SATSAID, all sister unions, and the workers of the Public Media of Argentina, and ask you to do everything in your power to prevent the government from moving forward with these policies that are so harmful to the Argentinean people.

Yours faithfully

Philippa Childs
Head of Bectu