



FERA

Federation of European Film Directors

PRESS STATEMENT

on

THE CLOSURE OF THE HELLENIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION (ERT)

BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT

All democracies need a plurality of media voices if they are to survive: Greece, the mother of European democracy, is no exception. In these difficult times Greece needs its public broadcaster more than ever, if consensus and hope are to be found.

The Greek people are also entitled to continuity of news, film and audiovisual culture, which a functioning ERT can provide. Its film makers must not be arbitrarily prevented from making films and programmes. Culture and free speech are not merely optional; without them democracy will wither away.

To reform ERT may be necessary, but to close it is a dangerous and destructive step into authoritarianism. The film directors of Europe, through FERA, urge Prime Minister Samaras to work now with all parties, and all people of good will, to bring this precious national asset back to life without delay.

Signed: **FERA Honorary President** **Sir Alan Parker**
 FERA Creative Council **Marco Bellocchio**
 Claire Denis
 Agnieszka Holland
 Neil Jordan
 Istvan Szabo

FERA, the Federation of European Film Directors, is a non-profit organization of 39 national film and television directors' guilds and associations from 29 countries of Europe, representing the independent voice of about 20,000 European directors.