



Bust of Anders Chydenius by Walter Runeberg (1903), Kokkola

The Freedom of the Press Act 1766

In 1766, the parliament of Sweden issued the most liberal Freedom of the Press Act ever.

The Act abolished preventive censorship and made political debate – including criticism on the ruling groups – permissible.

The Act was simultaneously the world's first Freedom of Information Act: for the first time, it was decreed that administrative and judiciary documents, as a rule, were public and that citizens had the right to access them.

There was a person who remarkably influenced the formation of the legislation.

He was Anders Chydenius, a 37-year-old Member of Parliament and chaplain of a small, remote parish in the eastern part of the Kingdom of Sweden, Ostrobothnia, present-day Finland.



'His Majesty's Gracious Ordinance Relating to Freedom of Writing and of the Press' was ratified on 2 December 1766, and it had a constitutional status.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ANDERS CHYDENIUS
250 YEARS

**Right to Know.
Right to Say.**