

**Question for written answer E-001636/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Mathilde Androuët (PfE)

Subject: EU funding for far-left media: jeopardising the neutrality and plurality of public debate

The far-left media outlet StreetPress is indirectly receiving EU funding via the Sphera Network. The latter, begun by cafebabel.com, has received funding from the 'Europe for Citizens' programme, including a generous annual grant of EUR 200 000 between 2014 and 2017. This is a deeply worrying state of affairs, highlighting as it does the potential misuse of European public funds to support media outlets with an overt political bias that seek neither neutrality nor plurality of viewpoints, which could seriously compromise the quality of public debate in Europe.

1. Can the Commission confirm precisely how much was granted to cafebabel.com and Sphera Network, and the precise criteria for awarding these funds?
2. What safeguards are in place to ensure that European funds are not used to promote any one political ideology at the expense of another?
3. Does the Commission really consider it acceptable for funds that are supposedly intended to promote European citizenship to be diverted to support openly far-left media, thereby risking dangerously unbalancing democratic debate in Europe?

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