

**Question for written answer E-002813/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Michał Wawrykiewicz (PPE)

Subject: Monitoring media freedom and the functioning of public media

In recent years, threats to media freedom and pluralism, which are crucial for democracy and the rule of law, have been increasing in some EU countries. International organisations point to political pressure, intimidation of journalists and restrictions on access to information. In Hungary, public and private media are controlled by entities close to the government, while in other countries, such as Romania and Italy, public media are sometimes used for propaganda purposes. Dependence on state advertising and concentration of ownership further increase vulnerability to pressure.

The EU, as a community of values, must guarantee respect for the right to freedom of expression and information and support independent media.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission intend to strengthen mechanisms to protect media freedom, including an early warning system against political pressure?
2. Is the Commission monitoring the effectiveness of the European Media Freedom Act, and is it considering proposing additional measures to counter media concentration and promote transparency of media funding?

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