

**Question for written answer E-003018/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Judita Laššáková (NI)

Subject: Striking a balance between the freedom of journalists and the protection of the personal rights of those reported on by journalists

On 6 December 2024, the Bratislava IV Municipal Court issued an immediately enforceable order for urgent measures requiring Denník N to refrain from making certain statements. On the same day the order was served to the editorial office of Denník N, the editors declared that they had been informed of it. On 6 December 2024, Denník N (its editor-in-chief) published an article entitled ‘If the courts protect fascists, we will protect truth and justice’.

In the article, the editor-in-chief writes: ‘You don't need a court decision to know that such a person should be punished...’.

The statements made in the article sowed significant hatred against the judge (a woman, I should point out!) who issued this order. For a few hours, many hate comments were visible under the article.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission consider it acceptable for a journalist to stir up hatred against a woman with his article?
2. How does the Commission intend to strike a balance between protecting journalists and protecting the rights of the wives and children of men who are identified in their articles with no personal data protection when a journalist's article sows hatred among the public?
3. How does the Commission intend to set rules for journalists who, as litigants in a court of law, use their articles to stir up hatred in society and question state institutions solely in order to obtain a ruling in their favour?

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