Question for written answer E-001183/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Reporting of EU funding to press bodies and implications for journalistic independence

Press sources report that the European Commission provided EUR 132.82 million to various media outlets – including significant Italian newspapers – through the company Havas Media France around the time of the June 2024 European elections. No information is available on the beneficiaries and specific amounts disbursed.

Given that the EU institutions do not pursue commercial purposes and have internal structures for institutional communication:

1. What criteria justified the allocation of these resources through a private intermediary, without applying the public tendering obligations for sums over EUR 14 000?

2. There is evidence to suggest that articles and services have been tailored to the preferences of Brussels' top dogs, undermining the principle of the independence of the press. In the light of this in particular, how will the Commission ensure that such funding, if indeed provided, is not used to politically influence the beneficiaries, curtailing their editorial freedom?

3. Why has the information on beneficiaries and specific amounts disbursed not been published in full?

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