

**Question for written answer E-003310/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Catherine Griset (PfE)

Subject: Banking discrimination against opposition journalists

Following the targeting of opposition figures and political parties without economic justification by certain French banks¹, it is now the turn of opposition journalists to fall victim to banking discrimination.

As an example, the TV Libertés news website had its bank accounts closed without notice or justification. Yet the Banque de France allowed it to reopen a bank account².

Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 on media freedom protects journalists from certain state pressures, including by prohibiting:

- an obligation to disclose their sources;
- arbitrary detention, surveillance or searches;
- the use of intrusive surveillance software.

However, the regulation does not prohibit the debanking of journalists and media.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Can consumer protection rules or rules ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market protect journalists and media who have been arbitrarily debanked?
2. Why does the European Media Freedom Act regulate Member States' abuses of the press, but not those committed by private actors, such as banks, advertisers or Sleeping Giants?
3. Is censorship being partly outsourced to the private sector?

Submitted: 27.8.2025

¹ <https://www.france24.com/fr/20171122-marine-pen-denonce-fatwa-bancaire-clotures-comptes-front-national-fn>

² <https://lincorrect.org/tvl-vire-de-sa-banque-martial-bild-il-semble-que-nous-soyons-un-petit-caillou-dans-la-chaussure-du-pouvoir-lincorrect/>