

Question for written answer E-005001/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Auke Zijlstra (PfE)

Subject: Concerns regarding media freedom in candidate country Moldova

The Commission has issued recommendations on the protection of journalists and other media professionals in the EU, namely Recommendations (EU) 2021/1534¹ and (EU) 2022/758². The Mass-Media Forum took place in Chisinau, Moldova, on 8 December 2025. Press representatives, media experts and other relevant stakeholders participated. I received reports from Moldova that representatives of independent media organisations that are more critical of the government were not allowed into the room. The reason given was that ‘there were no more seats available in the room’, although photographs show that there was still plenty of room. This gives the impression that media pluralism is being undermined. According to its website, the Mass-Media Forum is co-sponsored by the European Union³.

1. Is the Commission aware of these worrying signs?
2. Does the Commission intend to continue providing financial support to the Mass-Media Forum?
3. Can the Commission indicate whether respect for press and media freedom is one of the conditions for becoming a candidate country, and whether violations of this freedom could constitute grounds for (temporarily) suspending accession negotiations?

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¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022H1634>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:4604128>

³ <https://mediaforum.md/event/2025>