

**Question for written answer E-005025/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Catherine Griset (PfE)

Subject: Sleeping Giants' harassment of independent media

In November 2025, Sleeping Giants – a far-left activism organisation – pressured companies to remove their advertising inserts that were benefitting the independent media outlet *Frontières*. The advertisers targeted included Leroy Merlin, which gave in to the demands of Sleeping Giants¹.

This new form of private censorship clearly aims to restrict editorial freedom and media pluralism by financially suffocating independent media.

The French authorities turn a blind eye to such practices, despite them being sanctionable under Article 225-2 of the French Criminal Code, which punishes, by three years' imprisonment and a fine of EUR 45 000, discrimination against a natural or legal person consisting of 'obstructing the normal exercise of any given economic activity'.

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

1. Is it aware of this new immunity from criminal prosecution that the French authorities have granted to far-left activists?
2. Why does the Media Freedom Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1083) not provide the media with any protection from abuses committed against them by private actors such as Sleeping Giants?
3. Does Sleeping Giants receive EU funding?

Submitted: 19.12.2025

¹ https://x.com/leroymerlinfr/status/1990422371191173472?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw