

**Priority question for written answer P-003017/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Judita Laššáková (NI)

Subject: Journalists' attack on the fundamental rule of law and its basic principles

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 literally writes: 'You don't need a court decision to know that such a person should be punished...' and 'he supposedly has the right to the presumption of innocence, and no court has yet ruled that Bombic is a criminal.'

These statements in the article sowed significant hatred against the judge (a woman, I should point out!) who issued this order.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission consider it acceptable that a journalist is unaware of Article 48 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights on the presumption of innocence, which is also enshrined in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic (Article 50(2))?
2. Will the Commission continue to base its report on the rule of law on the articles of Denník N, as it has done so far, despite the fact that the editor-in-chief himself declares that he knows nothing about the presumption of innocence?

Submitted: 18.12.2024