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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.9.2024)

The Commission is committed to safeguarding pluralistic and independent media, essential for democracy and the rule of law, and to the functioning of the internal market for media. As part of its annual Rule of Law Report, the Commission assesses the situation on media freedom and pluralism in the Member States¹.

The EU support for the action entitled ‘Defending media freedom and pluralism – Rapid response mechanism’ is up to EUR 3 100 000 for the 24-month period between 16 July 2023 and 15 July 2025². It is financed through the Creative Europe programme³ and encompasses fact-finding, advocacy, monitoring, awareness raising and providing practical help to journalists under threat in Member States and candidate countries, without specific budget allocation per country.

The action is carried out in an independent manner, without the Commission intervening in operational aspects, such as earmarking funds for the preparation of a particular report or selection of contributors to a particular report.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle_en

² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999999999/project/101112154/program/43251814/details>

³ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>