

EN

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Answer given by Vice-President Jourová
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.9.2024)

The Commission attaches great importance to the independence of public service media. In this regard, the European Media Freedom Act¹ introduces several safeguards to ensure the independent functioning of public service media, which apply from August 2025. Among others, Article 5 provides that appointments of the head of management or the members of the management board of public service media are based on transparent, open, effective and non-discriminatory procedures and transparent, objective, non-discriminatory and proportionate criteria laid down in advance at national level.

The political guidelines of President-elect von der Leyen for the upcoming Commission cement democracy and the rule of law at the heart of the EU and highlight that strengthening them further will be the Commission's daily work and duty². In the framework of the annual Rule of Law Reports, the Commission monitors the state of media freedom and pluralism in all Member States, including Spain. The country chapter on Spain of the 2024 Rule of Law Report makes reference to the 2024 Media Pluralism Monitor report which flagged concerns related to the independence of public service media at regional level³. The Commission will continue to closely monitor any developments in this area. It takes notes of the information the Honourable Member provided on the draft legal reform.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202401083

² https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/president-elect-ursula-von-der-leyen_en

³ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/2bd09a6f-ef56-494a-8303-e0de808ee981_en?filename=23_1_58063_coun_chap_spain_en_0.pdf