

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001634/24
to the Commission
Catherine Griset (PFE)
(5 September 2024)**

Subject: Increase in Commission grants for media actions

The 1 August issue of the *La Lettre* newspaper reported that there has been a significant increase in Commission grants for media actions relating to the EU.

In fact, the budget for these actions has risen from EUR 5 million in 2022 to EUR 14.1 million in 2023, an increase of nearly 300%. The grants were awarded for carrying out campaigns to raise awareness on the European Union.

I question how effective this public spending is, especially in the current economic climate. Furthermore, the fact that these grants are mainly used to influence the perception of European citizens, and particularly young people, calls into question the independence of the media in receipt of these grants.

I would therefore ask the Commission:

1. What is the specific reason for such a big increase in media grants in 2023 and on what basis was it decided?
2. What monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place to ensure that public funds allocated for this purpose are used in a transparent and unbiased way?
3. How will the Commission ensure that this substantial increase in spending does not compromise the sovereignty of Member States by influencing the public debate at national level?

Submitted: 5.9.2024

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(18 November 2024)**

The media grants referenced within the question are issued and managed by the European Parliament and the Commission is therefore unable to reply.
