

EN

E-001791/2024

Answer given by Vice-President Jourová
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.11.2024)

1. The Commission co-funds the Media Freedom Rapid Response¹ and is aware of the data it collects. The Commission monitors media freedom, including the safety of journalists, in all Member States, taking into account the 2021 Recommendation² on the safety of journalists, the package against strategic lawsuits against public participation³ and it will also take into account the European Media Freedom Act⁴ (as from 2025). The Rule of Law Report⁵ makes specific recommendations to Member States, asking them to take steps to address them.
2. In her political guidelines⁶, the President-elect of the Commission referred to increased support for and protection of independent media and journalists. The Commission will take stock of the progress achieved by Member States, based on key performance indicators and the findings of the Rule of Law Reports, and will decide which additional steps are required. The Commission will also ensure the effective application of the European Media Freedom Act to protect media and journalists.
3. The Commission will ensure that the future long-term budget has strong safeguards on the rule of law - including the general regime of conditionality, applying to all EU funds, including external support. Respect for freedom of expression and media freedom falls under the fundamentals for EU accession. The Commission will continue to support candidate countries' alignment with the EU *acquis* in this area, including through financial assistance.

¹ <https://www.mfr.eu/>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/document/79357>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32024L1069>

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202401083

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle_en

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf