

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001296/25
to the Commission
Jorge Buxadé Villalba (PFE)
(27 March 2025)**

Subject: Spanish Government interference in private media

The President of the PRISA Group, Joseph Oughourlian, has accused Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, in an *El País* column ⁽¹⁾ of using public companies to take control of that group. Oughourlian alludes to the Spanish Government's efforts as largest shareholder of Telefónica ⁽²⁾ to take control of the media belonging to the PRISA Group ⁽³⁾. Telefónica has received public EU money in the form of subsidies granted by the Commission.

In the light of this alarming state of affairs:

1. What aid has Telefónica and the PRISA Group received in the last 10 years and which EU programmes and funds has it benefited from?
2. How much in total has been allocated from the EU budget to those companies?
3. When will the Commission end its complicity in the social Spanish Government's assault on democracy and the rule of law?

Submitted: 27.3.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(25 June 2025)**

Telefonica SA has received the following EU funding under direct management: EUR 723 526 from seven grants signed under Horizon 2020 ⁽¹⁾; EUR 1 658 582 from nine grants under Horizon Europe ⁽²⁾; EUR 12.55 million from the Connecting Europe Facility ⁽³⁾. It has also received EUR 604 533 078.24 from the European Regional Development Fund ⁽⁴⁾ in the last 10 years.

Promotora de Informaciones (PRISA) SA has received the following EU funding under direct management: EUR 1 million in three grants under Creative Europe ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission remains committed to taking any necessary measures to ensure compliance with EU law, including EU State aid rules, and upholding the rule of law in all Member States and will continue to work with the Spanish authorities to promote the rule of law, including within the framework of the rule of law cycle.

¹ <https://elpais.com/opinion/2025-03-17/mi-compromiso-con-el-pais-libertad-editorial-e-independencia.html>

² <https://www.sepi.es/es/sala-de-prensa/noticias/sepi-alcanza-la-participacion-del-10-en-telefonica>

³ https://www.elconfidencial.com/empresas/2025-03-15/el-gobierno-usa-a-telefonica-y-se-reune-en-paris-con-vivendi-para-tomar-prisa_4086909/

⁽¹⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en.

⁽²⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁽³⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/connecting-europe-facility/about-connecting-europe-facility_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>.