(English version)

Question for written answer E-002704/25
to the Commission
Charlie Weimers (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR)
(2 July 2025)

Subject: Questionable EU funding of 'independent' media

Recent analyses indicate that EU media-related spending significantly exceeds publicly stated figures ([1]). While the Commission cites an annual allocation of EUR 20-21 million for 'multimedia actions', actual spending reportedly approaches EUR 35 million per year, with around EUR 150 million flowing directly or indirectly into newsrooms. Euronews, which has received approximately EUR 227 million in EU funds since 2014, has been the subject of concerns regarding the transparency of and accountability for the financial support received ([2]).

The Commission claims to support media pluralism. In parallel, new outlets are emerging with generous EU support. Observers have noted that EU media funding is complex and difficult to trace, making oversight and public scrutiny challenging ([3]).

1. How does the Commission ensure that its media funding mechanisms do not distort competition or undermine editorial independence?

2. Will the Commission publish a comprehensive annual breakdown of all media-related expenditures across all funding streams?

3. What steps is it taking to improve traceability and transparency in the allocation and monitoring of EU media funds?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(13 August 2025)

The Commission's calls for proposals for media are open to all types of news media organisations and excludes direct awards. Applicants are free to propose activities to be implemented in response to the objectives and expected deliverables set out in the Commission's open calls for proposals.

Beneficiaries operate in full editorial independence from the Commission and any other authority, as per the provisions of the calls for proposals and the ensuing grant agreements.

Funding is modest, considering the overall size of the media market in the EU, and does not unduly affect competition within that market. The Commission monitors the implementation of the funded media projects from a technical and financial perspective.

Aggregated information on the Commission's funding for the news media sector is regularly updated and made publicly available on the Commission's dedicated website ([1]).

Information on EU budget funding awarded to specific recipients, such as European media outlets, is also publicly available through the Commission's centralised Financial Transparency System web page ([2]).

This tool provides information at individual project level (e.g. short description, amount granted, project start and end date, funding instrument, responsible Directorate-General) and allows to generate breakdowns per year and to draw information according to different criteria (e.g. name of the organisation, beneficiary country).

---

1 [1]https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/money-for-nothing-commission-pours-millions-into-struggling-eu-media/.
2 [2]Not least by the Court of Auditors; https://www.eca.europa.eu/lists/ecadocuments/rcr_euronews/rcr_euronews_en.pdf.
3 [3]See the statement of Marius Dragomir in the Euractiv article cited in footnote one.
([1]) https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/funding-news-media-sector.
([2]) https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/analysis.html.