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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.10.2025)

The independence of the European Board for Media Services (the “Media Board”) is clearly established in the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA)¹. Article 9 of the EMFA protects and requires the full independence of the Media Board when performing its tasks or exercising its powers from any institution, person or body. This includes its independence from the Commission. Also, as indicated in Article 10 EMFA, the Board is composed of representatives of national regulatory authorities or bodies that, pursuant to the Audiovisual Media Services Directive², need to be independent.

Pursuant to Article 11 of the EMFA, the Media Board’s secretariat is provided by the Commission. However, in line with the same article, the main task of the secretariat is contributing to the independent execution of the tasks of the Media Board, and the secretariat shall act on the sole instructions of the Media Board regarding its tasks under the Regulation. Those safeguards have been fully implemented since the setup of the Media Board in February 2025. Additionally, the secretariat is adequately resourced for the performance of its tasks and, in order to ensure that it has the relevant expertise, has recruited staff including experts seconded by the independent national regulatory authorities or bodies members of the Media Board.

The Commission will continue providing the secretariat of the Media Board as required by the EMFA adopted by the co-legislators. The Commission does not intend to propose a modification of the Regulation.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401083.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/13/2018-12-18/eng>.