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E-003537/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.11.2025)

Media freedom and pluralism are fundamental values in the EU, enshrined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

There is no such targeted funding of so-called activist media. The Commission launches calls for proposals based on strict, transparent and pre-established criteria. These criteria make no mention of targeted editorial lines. All media organisations should however display journalistic standards such as respect for fundamental values, transparency and independence.

In calls addressing news media organisations, applicants sign a Declaration of editorial standards and commit to be ‘independent of any public or private instruction’. They also commit to provide ‘multiple and plural viewpoints’ and uphold media pluralism. As far as the example provided is concerned, beneficiaries operate in complete editorial independence further to the grant award, underpinned by a charter of independence that is part of the contracts. The Commission will not fail to react should there be grounds that the provisions of contracts are not respected.