

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003722/25
to the Commission**

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(25 September 2025)

Subject: EU reaction to the crackdown on freedom of speech and opinion in the United States

Sadly, it seems that the United States is currently experiencing an unprecedented crackdown on free speech and freedom of opinion. Following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, this trend seems to have intensified. The public discourse of the current administration ⁽¹⁾ raises fears that government powers will be used to silence critics of the administration ⁽²⁾, ranging from news outlets to comedians and commentators.

Given the foregoing, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How and when will it bring up its concerns about the declining freedom of expression and opinion in the United States with the competent US authorities?
2. What concrete steps is it taking to ensure that European journalists, including those based in the United States, are not falling prey to the ongoing political repression under the Trump regime?
3. Is it willing to assist journalists, comedians, satirists and others working in the US media who might be at risk of persecution in that country, including, if necessary, by granting them political asylum?

Submitted: 25.9.2025

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

Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union enshrines the right to freedom of expression and information as well as media freedom and pluralism. Both are considered essential pillars of the rule of law and crucial checks and balances in democracies.

The Commission is committed to supporting and protecting independent media and journalists in the EU. It has done so through initiatives such as the European Media Freedom Act ⁽¹⁾, the recommendation on the safety of journalists ⁽²⁾ and via a range of support actions such as Creative Europe and Multimedia Actions ⁽³⁾.

The Commission monitors developments across all EU Member States in the area of media freedom and pluralism in its annual Rule of Law Report ⁽⁴⁾.

At international level, the EU follows global human rights developments closely and remains committed to the promotion of freedom of expression as a fundamental right for everyone, everywhere.

The EU Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline offer political and operational guidance to EU staff and EU Member States for their work in third countries and multilateral fora, as well as in contacts with civil society and other stakeholders ⁽⁵⁾.

The EU seeks to engage with partner countries around the world through dialogue and cooperation and we are committed to continue engaging with the United States and civil society in this spirit.

The EU does not plan to adopt a specific policy dedicated to granting international protection to media professionals from the United States.

In line with EU asylum law ⁽⁶⁾, any application submitted will be subject to individual assessment by the relevant authorities of the concerned Member State.

¹ <https://www.pbs.org/weta/washingtonweek/video/2025/09/free-speech-under-fire>.

² <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/sep/20/tucker-carlson-trump-free-speech-crackdown>.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/protecting-democracy/european-media-freedom-act_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/recommendation-protection-safety-and-empowerment-journalists>.

⁽³⁾ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/creative-europe-media-strand>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/09_hr_guidelines_expression_en.pdf.

⁽⁶⁾ Common European Asylum System (CEAS) — Migration and Home Affairs.