

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004272/25
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (Pfe)
(30 October 2025)

Subject: Risk of future ‘European Democracy Shield’ undermining political pluralism and freedom of expression in the EU

The report ‘Strengthening Resilience: Towards the European Democracy Shield’ recommends bringing together the legislative instruments on political communication and media (Digital Services Act, European Media Freedom Act, Artificial Intelligence Act and Regulation on the Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising) under the direct authority of the Commission. It also suggests creating a European council for democratic resilience, composed of unelected experts, to assess Member States’ compliance with ‘EU values’.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission plan to take up the proposals of this report commissioned from two institutions with which it maintains regular financial and academic relations ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾?
2. What specific safeguards will be provided to ensure that the future European Democracy Shield does not restrict pluralism of opinions and freedom of expression, especially for patriotic parties, which are often wrongly associated with ‘disinformation’?

Submitted: 30.10.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(15 December 2025)

The study referred to was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield.

The European Democracy Shield, published by the Commission on 12 November 2025, provides a strategic approach to safeguard, strengthen and promote democracy in the EU.

The Commission organised wide consultations in the preparation of the Democracy Shield, seeking the views of the Member States, of the European Parliament, of other EU institutions and bodies, as well as a wide range of stakeholders. A public consultation and a Eurobarometer were also conducted. The Democracy Shield builds on the various input received during these consultations.

The European Democracy Shield does not restrict pluralism of opinions or freedom of expression. Quite the opposite: strengthening the integrity of the information space is key to supporting rights such as freedom of expression. Citizens must be able to access and partake in a reliable and trustworthy information space — free from interference. This is key to exercising democratic rights and engaging meaningfully with institutions and communities.

¹ EU contribution to Sant’Anna under the CORDIS — Horizon Europe project ‘Trustworthy Unified Robust Intelligent Generative Systems’: EUR 346 250 (European Commission, 2024).

² Summer courses at Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, organised as part of the ‘SUSTAIN’ programme of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Erasmus+ programme (European Commission, 2023).

³ EU contribution to King’s College London under the CORDIS — Horizon Europe project ‘Relational Harm’: EUR 1 990 933 (European Commission, 2024).