

EN

E-004438/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.1.2026)

The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) ¹ provides unprecedented safeguards for media and journalists against political interference. With regard to public service media, and as stated in the reply to written question E-002820/2025, the provisions of the EMFA aim to ensure editorial independence of public service media providers and provision by them of a plurality of information and opinions to their audiences, in accordance with their public service remit as defined at national level, in line with Protocol No 29 on the system of public broadcasting in the Member States annexed to the founding Treaties of the EU².

Most provisions of the EMFA apply from August 2025. The Commission is in close contact with Member States to make sure that their legal and institutional frameworks are aligned with the EMFA and facilitate its full application. The Commission has furthermore overseen and supported the transition from the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) to the European Board for Media Services - the Media Board, which was officially established in February 2025.

Member States have a primary responsibility to monitor the application of the EMFA and to take the necessary steps for enforcement. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission will continue monitoring the situation on the independence of media and may decide to take appropriate action including, where appropriate, infringement proceedings. Furthermore, it will continue assessing relevant developments related to media freedom and pluralism in all Member States, including Spain, under the annual Rule of Law Report³.

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

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2012/pro_29/oj.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle_en.