

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004453/25
to the Commission
Diana Riba i Giner (Verts/ALE)
(11 November 2025)**

Subject: Dismissal of Italian journalist Gabriele Nunziati and the implications for media freedom in Europe

According to the International and European Federations of Journalists, Italian journalist Gabriele Nunziati, Brussels correspondent of the *Agenzia Nova* news agency, was dismissed on 27 October 2025 after asking a question during a Commission press briefing. The International and European Federations of Journalists condemned this decision and called for his immediate reinstatement, stressing that no journalist should be penalised for doing their job and asking uncomfortable questions. They warned that such actions represent a serious threat to press freedom and show a blatant disregard for the core principles of editorial independence.

In the light of Article 6 of the European Media Freedom Act ⁽¹⁾, which obliges media service providers to take appropriate measures to guarantee the independence of editorial decisions, and Recital (19) thereof, which stresses the protection of journalists against undue interference:

1. Does the Commission consider that the dismissal of a journalist for posing a question is compatible with the safeguards established under the European Media Freedom Act, particularly Article 6 thereof?
2. Given the Commission's role as a public institution which is accountable to citizens and Parliament, and the importance of press briefings for transparency, does it consider that this recent dismissal has implications for editorial independence and freedom of inquiry, and what steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that journalists can ask questions freely during Commission briefings?

Submitted: 11.11.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(15 January 2026)**

The Commission attaches the utmost importance to media freedom as guaranteed in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights ⁽¹⁾. The Commission's daily midday press briefings provide accredited journalists with an open platform to ask any and all questions. Guaranteeing the freedom of inquiry is a core value of the Commission, fostering an environment where journalists can operate without restrictions.

The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), which came into application in August 2025, provides unprecedented safeguards for media and journalists against political interference and surveillance, ensuring editorial independence and protection of journalistic sources. The Commission's priority is now to ensure its correct implementation. The Commission cannot comment on individual cases.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/european-media-freedom-act.html>.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.