

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004502/25
to the Commission**

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(12 November 2025)

Subject: The sacking of journalist Gabriele Nunziati over a question he asked the Commission

The Agenzia Nova press agency has fired journalist Gabriele Nunziati over a question ('If Russia has to pay to rebuild Ukraine, why shouldn't Israel have to pay to rebuild Gaza?') he asked at the Commission's press conference of 13 October 2025 and which the EC spokesperson did not answer.

Italian media outlet Fanpage reports that, in the days following the conference, Nunziati's superiors called him a number of times and also sent him a letter, the journalist describing the tone of these communications as 'somewhat tense'. Agenzia Nova's reply to the above did not dispute Fanpage's version of events and even went as far as to state that Nunziati's question was 'completely uncalled for and based on a fallacy'.

No question is 'uncalled for': freedom of the press is enshrined by Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, while the Commission itself reacted to Nunziati's sacking by declaring that it is 'always available to answer all questions'.

Moreover, it is widely held that Israel's response to the terror attack of 7 October 2023 is disproportionate, resulting as it has in the deaths of 65 000 civilians and the destruction of 90% of buildings in Gaza.

In the light of the above, could the Commission clarify whether Israel should have to pay to rebuild Gaza just as Russia should have to foot the bill for Ukraine's reconstruction?

Submitted: 12.11.2025

**Question for written answer E-004646/25
to the Commission**

Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Fabio De Masi (NI), Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left), Fidias Panayiotou (NI), Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left), Diana Iovanovici Șoșoacă (NI), Lynn Boylan (The Left), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Michael von der Schulenburg (NI), Dario Tamburrano (The Left), Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE), Ondřej Dostál (NI), Petar Volgin (ESN), Marc Botenga (The Left), Catarina Martins (The Left), Branislav Ondruš (NI), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Kateřina Konečná (NI), Katarína Roth Neved'alová (NI), Valentina Palmisano (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Ilaria Salis (The Left), Rima Hassan (The Left), Friedrich Pürner (NI), Maria Zacharia (NI), Pasquale Tridico (The Left)
(20 November 2025)

Subject: Dismissal of Italian journalist Gabriele Nunziati and EU double standards on freedom of the press and freedom of expression

On 13 October 2025, Italian journalist Gabriele Nunziati asked the Commission Chief Spokesperson Paula Pinho a legitimate question about Israel's responsibility for the reconstruction of Gaza. On 27 October 2025, Agenzia Nova terminated its collaboration with Mr Nunziati, describing his question as 'inappropriate, erroneous and embarrassing'. The Italian Order of Journalists expressed dismay, reiterating that 'journalists cannot be dismissed for asking questions'.

This affair exposes the contradiction between the rhetoric of the European 'democratic shield' and the reality concerning freedom of the press. The EU cannot call itself a 'fortress of free media' while tolerating a climate of intimidation that stifles probing questions at the heart of the EU institutions, in violation of Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. While the EU mobilises against external interference and preaches press freedom, journalists face dismissal for simply asking a question that the Commission has yet to address.

1. The Commission has repeatedly stated that Russia should pay for the reconstruction of Ukraine. What is its opinion on whether Israel should pay for the reconstruction of Gaza, considering that Israel has destroyed the Gaza Strip?
2. What measures does it intend to take to discourage reprisals against independent journalists by news agencies in order to guarantee freedom of expression?
3. Is the Commission concerned about this case, and has it been in contact with Agenzia Nova?

Submitted: 20.11.2025

Joint answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(7 April 2026)

The EU promotes media freedom and pluralism as enshrined in Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The European Media Freedom Act ⁽¹⁾, 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 attaches utmost importance to press freedom and actively promotes it, notably through the daily availability of the Spokesperson's service to reply on-the-record to all journalists and their questions, in the Commission's press room and outside of it.

Guaranteeing the freedom of inquiry is a core value of the Commission, fostering an environment where journalists can operate without restrictions.

The Commission cannot comment on individual cases, and therefore it has not been in contact with Agenzia Nova on this matter.

The EU has consistently maintained that Israel needs to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and has emphasised the need for accountability for all violations of international law.

The EU is ready to contribute to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Plan for Gaza through the variety of the tools at its disposal, including in view of the reconstruction of Gaza, in line with its principles and values and based on the EU's longstanding engagement and substantial support for peace in the region.

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