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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.2.2026)

The EU's commitment to respect media freedom and pluralism and to uphold freedom of expression is enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. These core values of the EU, underpin a number of EU initiatives, including the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA)¹, in application since 8 August 2025.

The EMFA establishes a common framework to safeguard editorial independence, pluralism and the autonomy of public service media. Article 5 EMFA requires Member States to ensure that public service media operate independently and are protected from political interference. They have to designate independent authorities or bodies or put in place mechanisms free from political influence, to monitor the application of this provision. The Commission is in close contact with all Member States to ensure the alignment of their legal frameworks with the EMFA. More broadly, the objectives of the European Democracy Shield will continue to be pursued through a combination of legislative measures, policy initiatives and support for independent journalism and media literacy, including funding tools.

The Commission is not aware of any official assessment establishing a lack of political pluralism within Radio France or French public service broadcasting more generally.

The Commission will continue to monitor media freedom and pluralism in the Member States through the annual Rule of Law Report and relevant EU legislation.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act) (Text with EEA relevance).