

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004899/25
to the Commission
Catherine Griset (Pfe), André Rougé (Pfe), Virginie Joron (Pfe)
(10 December 2025)**

Subject: Is Reporters Without Borders still qualified to apply a trusted media label?

France 2, a public broadcaster, recently produced a report — one marred by ethical breaches ⁽¹⁾ — on the private TV broadcaster CNews.

The news report was even supposed to repeat assertions by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), which claimed that CNews broadcast left-wing viewpoints mainly at night and right-wing ones during the day.

However, Arcom, the French regulatory authority for audiovisual and digital communication, refuted this false statement, forcing France 2 to cut a section of the report.

Those events occur against the backdrop of RSF's long-standing hostility towards CNews, which also saw RSF go to France's supreme administrative court (the Conseil d'État) in 2022 to point out the private broadcaster's supposed contraventions. However, RSF has never reported any misconduct by the public broadcaster.

1. With President Emmanuel Macron wanting to introduce a trusted media label, citing the initiative launched by RSF in partnership with the Journalism Trust Initiative ⁽²⁾, will the Commission protect the press against any labels issued by any authorities or NGOs that show bias or spread false information?
2. Does the Commission intend to suspend the large amount of financial support it gives to RSF?

Supporters ⁽³⁾

Submitted: 10.12.2025

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

The independence of the press and the freedom of editorial decision-making are core principles protected under EU law. The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) ⁽¹⁾ strengthens safeguards against undue political or economic interference in editorial decisions while safeguarding the independence and pluralism of media services.

As regards EU funding, the Commission does not provide generalised direct operational support to media organisations. EU financial support may be awarded through competitive calls for proposals linked to specific projects, objectives and deliverables.

It does not imply endorsement of the views or positions of individual beneficiaries, nor does it affect the editorial independence of media actors. Grants are subject to contractual obligations, monitoring and audits, in line with the Financial Regulation ⁽²⁾.

The Commission can suspend funding when there is evidence of non-compliance with applicable rules or contractual obligations, or the risk of non-performance of legal commitments.

¹ <https://www.jeanmarcmorandini.com/article-625861-nouvelles-revelations-choix-sur-complement-d-enquete-un-temoin-paye-par-france-3-une-specialiste-qui-est-en-realite-la-soeur-d-un-dirigeant-de-france-tele-le-presentateur-tristan-waleckx-dans-la-tourmente.html>.

² <https://www.lefigaro.fr/secteur/high-tech/macron-souhaite-une-labellisation-des-sites-d-information-20251119>.

³ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Valérie Deloge (Pfe), Thierry Mariani (Pfe).

⁽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.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast).