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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.2.2026)

The EU is strongly committed to fostering the respect for human rights, including fundamental freedoms in Lebanon. Regarding media freedom and pluralism, the European Media Freedom Act¹ represents the EU's landmark legislation.

The EU's approach to strengthening freedom of expression in Lebanon is grounded in its continued engagement with the Lebanese authorities and civil society, support for ongoing reform processes and local initiatives that advocate for media freedom, public outreach events such as the Samir Kassir award, and the protection of civic space.

In its engagement with Lebanese counterparts, the EU stresses the need for the draft media law to be compliant with international standards, as to guarantee media pluralism, safeguard freedom of expression, and protect the independence of journalism. The Lebanese Parliament's Administration and Justice Committee, supported by EU-funded expertise, finalised the draft Comprehensive Media Law in November 2025. The draft, now awaiting plenary debate, introduces major reforms, including on the ownership of media outlets and the protection of journalists in order to safeguard Lebanon's tradition of strong, investigative journalism.

The EU stands ready to continue supporting the ambitious reform agenda by the Lebanese government in this area.

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