

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000660/26
to the Commission
Catarina Martins (The Left)
(16 February 2026)**

Subject: Breach of the European Media Freedom Act by the Portuguese Government

Article 5 of the European Media Freedom Act establishes that Member States should safeguard the editorial and functional independence of public service providers and the transparency of administrative procedures. The Portuguese Government recently changed the statutes of Lusa — Agência de Notícias de Portugal, SA ⁽¹⁾ — with the Portuguese state becoming the sole shareholder ⁽²⁾. The revised statutes introduce greater ‘governmentalisation’ and political control over the news agency. Examples include: the direct appointment of the board of directors by the government, with the advisory board simply having a consultative, non-binding role; the make-up of the advisory board itself; and regular reporting to the Portuguese Parliament by the news department. This is of great concern to journalists, in particular, but also to anyone who supports freedom of information.

1. Does the Commission believe that the current statutes are in line with Article 5 of the European Media Freedom Act?
2. Does the Commission believe that the statutes safeguard the editorial and functional independence of public service providers?
3. In the event that the regulation has been breached, what will the Commission do to ensure freedom of the press is restored?

Submitted: 16.2.2026

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

The Commission attaches great importance to upholding and fostering pluralistic and independent media and condemns any form of interference in the professional activities of journalists and their editorial independence.

Article 5 of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) ⁽¹⁾ requires Member States to ensure that public service media providers are editorially and functionally independent and that the procedures for the appointment and the dismissal of the head of management or the members of the management board of public service media providers aim to guarantee the independence.

It also sets out requirements for transparent, open and objective procedures to appoint the heads and management boards of such providers.

The Commission is in close contact with all Member States, including Portugal, to make sure that their laws comply with the EMFA, applicable as of 8 August 2025, and will use its enforcement powers to ensure such compliance as appropriate, focusing on systemic issues.

In addition, the Commission is monitoring relevant developments related to media freedom and pluralism in all Member States, including Portugal, under the annual Rule of Law Report.

¹ <https://www.lusa.pt/about-lusa/Estatutos-da-Sociedade>.

² <https://www.lusa.pt/about-lusa/Estrutura-acionista>.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1083, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1083>.