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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.6.2026)

The Commission's enforcement actions are strictly evidence-based and legally grounded in EU law, and do not target or favour media outlets based on their editorial line or political orientation. The Commission recalls that decisions concerning the granting, renewal or withdrawal of broadcasting licences fall primarily within the competence of national authorities.

The majority of provisions of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA)¹ became applicable in August 2025. Under Article 21 of EMFA in conjunction with Article 30 of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive², decisions taken by national authorities affecting media service providers must comply with the principles of transparency, objectivity, proportionality and non-discrimination, be taken by independent regulatory authorities, and remain subject to effective judicial review. The Commission is monitoring relevant developments in all Member States and will not hesitate to act where there are indications of a breach of EU law.

The infringement procedure³ referred to concerning Hungary was based on different legal bases, namely the Authorisation Directive⁴, the Framework Directive⁵, the European Electronic Communications Code⁶ which all deal with electronic communications and services, as well as the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

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).

² Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive).

³ <https://curia.europa.eu/site/upload/docs/application/pdf/2026-02/cp260019en.pdf>.

⁴ Directive 2002/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services, as amended by Directive 2009/140.

⁵ Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, as amended by Directive 2009/140/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 amending Directives 2002/21/EC, 2002/19/EC and 2002/20/EC.

⁶ Directive 2018/1972/EU establishing the European Electronic Communications Code, which recast Directives 2002/21/EC and 2002/20/EC.