

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.6.2026)

The freedom and pluralism of the media are enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and the Commission is committed to ensuring its respect within the remit of its competences.

In the context of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has imposed restrictive measures (sanctions) on Russian media outlets because of their role in supporting and justifying this war of aggression and disseminating Russian disinformation. Currently, 32 media outlets are subject to a broadcasting ban and have had their EU broadcasting licenses suspended, having been included in Annex XV to Regulation (EU) 833/2014¹ and Annex IX to Decision 2014/512/CFSP². It is therefore prohibited to disseminate any content from these media outlets in the EU.

The implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions are primarily the responsibility of the Member States. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission oversees the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions across Member States.

Moreover, the European Media Freedom Act³ allows for swift and efficient coordination of actions against rogue non-EU media service providers presenting risks to public security, entrusted to EU media regulators, gathered in the European Board for Media Services⁴.

The Commission also continues to monitor specific developments regarding media independence and pluralism in the Member States and in four enlargement countries⁵ as part of the Rule of Law Report.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, pp. 1–11.

² Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, pp. 13–17.

³ 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), OJ L, 2024/1083, 17.4.2024.

⁴ Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1083.

⁵ Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.