

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002042/26
to the Commission
Virginie Joron (Pfe), Catherine Griset (Pfe)
(18 May 2026)**

Subject: Commission-funded media outlets reporting on EU news should also mention opposition parties

On 1 April 2026, the Commission announced a grant of EUR 7.4 million to various media outlets including Agence France-Presse (AFP) for coverage of EU affairs ⁽¹⁾. It allocates a total of EUR 21.1 million in support of media pluralism. So AFP ⁽²⁾ has apparently received between EUR 9 million and EUR 12 million since 2014. The Commission also subscribes to European press agencies like Contexte and Agence Europe.

A number of media outlets financed by the Commission, however, do not report the positions of all of the political groups in the European Parliament, often neglecting to mention the opinions of certain groups. In one such case, an article in *Euractiv* on trilogue negotiations concerning artificial intelligence only mentions two political groups and omits the opinions of the others ⁽³⁾. Similarly, an AFP article published on France 24 quotes only two political groups ⁽⁴⁾.

1. Does the Commission require, in its calls for tenders, subscriptions and contracts supporting the production of news on EU affairs, that articles addressing these issues mention the positions of all the political groups?
2. How does it verify that all political groups are actually mentioned?
3. What amounts have AFP and France Télévision received from the Commission since 2014?

Submitted: 18.5.2026

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

Grants provided through programmes such as Horizon Europe ⁽¹⁾ and the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) ⁽²⁾ address technical innovation. Through Creative Europe ⁽³⁾, the Commission helps the news sector address sector-wide challenges and supports local and investigative journalism. Finally, the Commission supports the coverage of information on EU affairs through multimedia actions.

All programmes use open calls for proposals. Projects that involve editorial production commit to professional journalistic standards, including, but not limited to methods to ensure accuracy, objectivity, independence, professional reporting, impartiality and plural viewpoints.

The Commission monitors project implementation, including overall adherence to journalistic standards. The Commission does not interfere with media freedom, which is a fundamental tenet of the EU, and beneficiaries operate under full editorial independence.

Since 2014, Agence France-Presse has received approximately EUR 8.4 million in co-financing for its activities in awarded projects, mostly through innovation programmes (Horizon Europe and DIGITAL) and multimedia actions ⁽⁴⁾. France Télévisions has received approximately EUR 1 million in co-financing through DIGITAL, Creative Europe and European Parliament pilot projects.

¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-awards-eu74-million-media-reporting-european-affairs> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/multimedia-actions>.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/analysis.html>.

³ <https://www.euractiv.com/news/eu-agrees-ban-on-nudifier-ais-and-cuts-rules-for-ai-in-machinery/>.

⁴ [https://www.france24.com/fr/info-en-continuu/20260318-ia-des-eurodeput  s-veulent-interdire-la-cr  ation-de-deepfakes-sexuels](https://www.france24.com/fr/info-en-continuu/20260318-ia-des-eurodeputés-veulent-interdire-la-cr  ation-de-deepfakes-sexuels).

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/digital-europe-programme_en.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/creative-europe_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/multimedia-actions>.