

EN

E-002809/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2026)

The European Media Freedom Act (the EMFA)¹ sets out targeted safeguards for the independent functioning of public service media. These include rules for transparent and effective appointments of heads of management or members of management boards, and rules on funding procedures to guarantee adequate, sustainable and predictable financial resources.

The EMFA does not prescribe specific governance and funding models, and Member States retain discretion on how to organise these in line with their national specificities. It also does not affect the competence of Member States to provide for the funding of public service media providers, as enshrined in Protocol No 29².

The 2026 Rule of Law Report on Italy considered the reform of Radiotelevisione italiana (RAI) governance and funding rules and took note of the concerns expressed by stakeholders regarding the impact on RAI's financial stability and predictability of the EUR 10 million reduction in its public funding for 2026, which the Government indicated as intended to rationalise RAI's operating costs³.

Exchanges are ongoing between the Commission and all Member States, including Italy, to ensure the effective and correct implementation of the EMFA.

As a regulation, the EMFA is directly applicable and can be litigated before national courts, where relevant. The Commission is monitoring the state of implementation in all Member States and may make use of its powers to bring infringement procedures.

The Commission will also continue to monitor closely the state of media pluralism and media freedom in all Member States, including Italy, in the context of its annual Rule of Law Report.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1083/oj/eng>.

² As enshrined in Protocol No 29 of the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2016/pro_29/oj/eng.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2026-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en.