

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001541/26
to the Council
Martin Schirdewan (The Left)
(15 April 2026)**

Subject: Links with Hüseyin Dođru

On 20 May 2025, the Council issued a press release on measures to counter hybrid threats from Russia ⁽¹⁾, which raises some questions.

1. In this context, to what extent is the Council ensuring that the measures are consistent with freedom of the press and freedom of expression, and that the fundamental democratic rights of the individuals concerned are respected?
2. Does the Council have any intelligence or security-related information about Hüseyin Dođru and his possible connections to state or state-affiliated structures linked to Russia, and if so, what kind of connections or activities do these include?
3. Does the Council possess any information on whether Hüseyin Dođru or the company associated with him, AFA Medya, has received or is currently receiving financial resources from Russian state sources, including indirectly or through circumvention structures?

Submitted: 15.4.2026

**Reply
(27 July 2026)**

The Council recalls that respect for fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and freedom of the press, is an integral part of the EU's approach to restrictive measures.

Listed individuals and entities retain the right to challenge their listing before the Court of Justice of the European Union. The Council reviews restrictive measures regularly to ensure that listings remain justified and proportionate.

The decision to include individuals and entities on the EU's list of restrictive measures is taken unanimously by the Council on the basis of legal and political considerations.

The Council does not comment on intelligence matters or on the specific information underlying individual listing decisions, as disclosing such information could undermine the effectiveness of the measures and prejudice ongoing processes.

The Council refers to the legal acts and publicly available statements of reasons, which set out the basis for individual listings as far as possible without compromising the above considerations.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/05/20/russian-hybrid-threats-eu-lists-further-21-individuals-and-6-entities-and-introduces-sectoral-measures-in-response-to-destabilising-activities-against-the-eu-its-member-states-and-international-partners/>