

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002138/26
to the Commission
Christine Anderson (ESN), Charlie Weimers (ECR)
(26 May 2026)**

Subject: Equal application of EU standards to tackle foreign interference from state-linked media actors operating in the EU

In its reply to Written Question E-002563/2025 ⁽¹⁾ concerning the report ‘The Muslim Brotherhood and Political Islamism in France’, the Commission confirmed that it ‘closely follows the evolving risks linked to organisations trying to unduly influence the European institutions’. It linked such risks to the European Democracy Shield, foreign information manipulation and interference, and covert foreign influence operations.

At the same time, public concerns have repeatedly been raised regarding the political alignment of Al-Jazeera Arabic, a Qatar-based state-linked media outlet operating in the EU information space through bureaux and media structures in several Member States. Public debate has also highlighted alleged ideological proximity between parts of the network and Islamist movements such as the Muslim Brotherhood.

1. Does the Commission possess any assessments, analyses or risk evaluations concerning possible links, cooperation patterns or ideological proximity between Al Jazeera Arabic structures operating within the EU and organisations associated with the Muslim Brotherhood or other Islamist movements?
2. In practice, are state-linked media actors associated with non-EU countries such as Qatar subject to the same scrutiny and transparency requirements, as well as foreign-interference risk assessment standards, as actors linked to Russian influence or disinformation networks?
3. Does the Commission consider the transparency and disclosure obligations under the European Media Freedom Act and related legislation sufficient to identify potential foreign-state influence exercised through state-linked media organisations operating within the EU?

Submitted: 26.5.2026

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

Any assessment relating to foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) should be based on concrete evidence of relevant activities.

The Council of the EU takes decisions to adopt, renew or lift sanctions based on proposals by the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission (HRVP) or by Member States ⁽¹⁾.

In deciding so, the Council relies on information and evidence submitted, among others, by the Member States, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and other relevant sources to assess whether the applicable listing criteria are satisfied.

In its monitoring of information environments in the Middle East and North Africa, the EEAS has consistently reported to EU institutions, bodies and agencies and Member States about acts and actors of manipulation.

The EU has no evidence of alleged operational links between Al Jazeera Media Network and organisations associated with the Muslim Brotherhood or other Islamist movements within the EU.

The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) ⁽²⁾ puts in place a new set of rules to protect media pluralism and independence in the EU.

Among others, the EMFA enhances the transparency of media ownership and transparency in state advertising allocated to media service providers and online platforms operating in the EU and obliges media service providers to disclose names of direct, indirect and beneficial owners as well as advertising revenues from third countries.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002563-ASW_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ Article 30(1) of the Treaty on the European Union.

⁽²⁾ 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.