



**2017/2209(INI)**

5.2.2018

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 100**

**Draft opinion**

**Heidi Hautala**

Media pluralism and media freedom in the European Union  
(2017/2209(INI))



**Amendment 1**  
**Evelyne Gebhardt**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph –1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**-1. stresses that media pluralism embraces many aspects, among them, merger control rules to content requirements in broadcasting licensing systems, transparency and limited concentration of media ownership, the establishment of editorial freedoms, the independence and status of public service broadcasters, the professional situation of journalists, the relationship between media and political actors, as well as economic actors, the access of women and minorities, diversity of opinions etc**

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph –1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**-1. Recalls that freedom of expression and information is a fundamental right as provided for in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;**

Or. en

**Amendment 3**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph –1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**-1.** *Stresses that media freedom and pluralism are rooted in the fundamental right of freedom of expression, which is a cornerstone of democracy, constituted by individual members of society;*

Or. en

**Amendment 4**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph –1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**-1 a.** *Acknowledges that the main responsibility for maintaining media freedom and pluralism lies with the Member States; recognises, however, that the European Union has an important role to play, especially in cross-border issues which arise in the Single Market, including competition policy issues, as well as in upholding the fundamental rights of EU citizens and protecting the democratic sphere necessary for functioning of EU democracy, in case this might be threatened by restrictions on media freedom and pluralism in one of the Member States;*

Or. en

**Amendment 5**  
**Evelyne Gebhardt**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph –1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**-1 a.** *stresses that media freedom but also media pluralism and diversity is*

*fundamental for a working democracy  
and needs the active support of the  
political sector*

Or. en

**Amendment 6**  
**Tadeusz Zwiefka**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

*1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; calls therefore on the Member States and local authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and economic influence over media;*

*Amendment*

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 7**  
**Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; *calls* therefore on the Member States and *local* authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and

*Amendment*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States *and that the provision of effective solutions is sometimes lacking*; recalls that EU competition *and tax* rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions *and* therefore *calls for their proper implementation; calls* on the Member States and *national*

economic influence over media;

*independent regulatory* authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership, *including the beneficial owners*, and economic influence over media;

Or. en

## **Amendment 8** **Daniel Buda**

### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 1**

#### *Draft opinion*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; calls therefore on the Member States and local authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and economic influence over media;

#### *Amendment*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls *and emphasises* that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions *and, in this context, calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that these rules are implemented properly and effectively*; calls therefore on the Member States and local authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and economic influence over media;

Or. ro

## **Amendment 9** **Evelyne Gebhardt**

### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 1**

#### *Draft opinion*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an

#### *Amendment*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an

important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; calls therefore on the Member States and local authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and economic influence over media;

important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; calls therefore on the Member States and local authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information *and full transparency* on media ownership and economic influence *and financial support* over media.

Or. en

## **Amendment 10** **Jytte Guteland**

### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 1**

#### *Draft opinion*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; calls therefore on the Member States and local authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and economic influence over media;

#### *Amendment*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions *online and offline*; calls therefore on the Member States and local authorities to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information *and transparency* on media ownership and economic influence over media;

Or. en

## **Amendment 11** **Gilles Lebreton, Marie-Christine Boutonnet**

### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 1**

#### *Draft opinion*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media *ownership* in Member States; *recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing* the creation

#### *Amendment*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media in Member States; *points out the need to prevent* the creation or abuse of dominant positions *in the media*; calls

or abuse of dominant positions; calls therefore on the Member States *and local authorities* to monitor media concentration *and to provide easily accessible information on* media ownership and *economic influence over media*;

therefore on the *EU* Member States to monitor media concentration, *to keep the public fully informed about* media ownership and *media dependence, and to take measures to reduce that concentration*;

Or. fr

## Amendment 12

Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 1

##### *Draft opinion*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; calls *therefore* on the Member States *and local authorities* to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and economic influence over media;

##### *Amendment*

1. Notes with regret that insufficient attention has been paid to the concentration of media ownership in Member States; recalls that EU competition rules play an important role in preventing the creation or abuse of dominant positions; calls on the Member States to monitor media concentration and to provide easily accessible information on media ownership and economic influence over *the* media *landscape*;

Or. en

## Amendment 13

Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto, Tadeusz Zwiefka

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 1 a (new)

##### *Draft opinion*

##### *Amendment*

*1 a. The independence of the press covers both public and private media; highlights in this regard the importance of ethical codes for journalists and editors; such ethical codes shall encompass the duty to verify information and sources; stresses that the dissemination of content online needs to*



*apply the same duty of care than dissemination offline; is concerned in this regard that standards seem to be lowered in a rapidly changing online environment where quantity and promptness and clickbaits seems more important than accurateness;*

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Julia Reda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*I a. Whereas the introduction of ancillary copyright laws have led to enormous administrative costs in the administration and enforcement of the introduced neighbouring right in Germany without any tangible and sustainable income for both publishers and journalists; whereas these laws have brought considerable legal uncertainty to the functioning of the market and have put European companies in a significant disadvantage over international competitors;*

Or. en

**Amendment 15**  
**Tadeusz Zwiefka, Michał Boni**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*I a. Underlines the crucial role of public media to provide the citizens with objective and independent media coverage, having in mind the duty to present a variety of political positions, as*

*public media are publicly financed;  
stresses that public media might often be  
endangered with the influence of  
governing majority that can deprive  
public opinion from the access to full  
range of information;*

Or. en

**Amendment 16**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*1 a. Calls on the Commission to  
monitor and collect information and  
statistics about media freedom and  
pluralism within all Member States and to  
analyse cases of infringement of the  
fundamental rights of freedom of speech  
and of journalists and other media  
workers while respecting the principle of  
subsidiarity;*

Or. en

**Amendment 17**

**Tadeusz Zwiefka, Michał Boni**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*1 b. Calls on the Member States to  
adopt or improve the existing legal  
provisions to guarantee transparency of  
formal and beneficial media ownership as  
well as of management, including online  
media, to allow for identification of  
possible source of control and influence,  
to strengthen the accountability and to  
ensure editorial and journalistic  
independence and safeguard the media's*

*role as public watchdog;*

Or. en

**Amendment 18**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 b. Underlines that the independence of public service media is not always properly guaranteed and there is a need to promote sound legal provisions and good administrative practice in the domain of public service media, with a view to strengthening their independence and their capability to fulfil their mission in the general public interest;***

Or. en

**Amendment 19**

**Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech, Heidi Hautala**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 b. Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents;***

Or. en

**Amendment 20**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 c. Reiterates that adequately equipped and financed public service media, particularly public service broadcasting, can play a key role in counterbalancing the risk of misuse of power of the media resulting from a strong media concentration due to their operational independence;***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**

**Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech, Heidi Hautala**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 c. Whereas journalists require direct, immediate and unencumbered access to information by public administration to properly hold authorities to account;***

Or. en

**Amendment 22**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 d. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote and develop new socially sustainable economic models aimed at financing and supporting quality and independent journalism and strengthening the sustainability of public service media, which are prerequisites of a pluralistic media system;***

**Amendment 23**

**Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech, Heidi Hautala**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 d. Whereas information obtained both by right of inquiry as well as through whistle-blowers are complementary to each other and both essential for journalists' ability to fulfil their public interest mission;***

Or. en

**Amendment 24**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 e. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take adequate measures to safeguard and promote a pluralist, independent and free media in order to ensure freedom of speech and democracy;***

Or. en

**Amendment 25**

**Julia Reda, Heidi Hautala, Francis Zammit Dimech**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 e. Whereas journalists require fullest legal protection to use and disseminate such information of public interest in***

*their line of work;*

Or. en

**Amendment 26**

**Heidi Hautala, Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 1 f (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1 f. Whereas the right to demand and receive information from public administrations remains scattered and incomplete across the European Union;***

Or. en

**Amendment 27**

**Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures ***used in*** certain Member States to restrain and control ***the*** media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from ***the government and*** from political or commercial interests ***should*** be protected; underlines that ***the*** coverage of election ***campaigning*** should be fair, balanced, impartial ***and systematically monitored***;

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures ***taken by*** certain Member States to restrain and control ***their*** media, ***including public media channels***, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from ***governments and/or*** from political or commercial interests ***must*** be protected; underlines that ***any*** coverage of election ***campaign*** should be fair, balanced ***and*** impartial; ***urges Member States to adhere to the recommendations and resolutions by the Council of Europe as regards public media independence and recalls the European standards laid down in the Treaties in this respect; stresses that supervision of public service media must be exercised by independent bodies and not directly by political institutions, such***

*as a government; moreover, in cases of state financed public service media, editorial independence must be guaranteed*

Or. en

**Amendment 28**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

*Amendment*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; ***emphasizes that it is the Member States that have the positive obligation to ensure media pluralism and an environment in which citizens can participate in public debate and express ideas and opinions without fear***; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

Or. en

**Amendment 29**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial

*Amendment*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial

independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning ***and of other relevant events, especially when they substantially influence public life and opinion (e.g. major political debates, major popular demonstrations or protests)*** should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

Or. en

### **Amendment 30** **Daniel Buda**

#### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests ***should be protected***; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

##### *Amendment*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that ***greater protection should be provided for*** the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests, ***but also from any private interests that are likely to threaten media pluralism and media freedom***; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

Or. ro

### **Amendment 31** **Isabella Adinolfi**

#### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 2**

##### *Draft opinion*

2. Is concerned about the legislative

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##### *Amendment*

2. Is concerned about the legislative

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and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial **and** systematically monitored;

and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected **and guaranteed**; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial, systematically monitored **and aimed at fully and duly informing citizens**;

Or. en

**Amendment 32**  
**Evelyne Gebhardt**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Is concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

*Amendment*

2. Is **deeply** concerned about the legislative and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly, **or to not support media pluralism**; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

Or. en

**Amendment 33**  
**Tadeusz Zwiefka, Jens Rohde, Michał Boni**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Is concerned about the legislative

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*Amendment*

2. Is concerned about the legislative

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and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

and administrative measures used in certain Member States to restrain and control the media, directly or indirectly, ***especially in the public media sector***; stresses that the fundamental principle of editorial independence from the government and from political or commercial interests should be protected; underlines that the coverage of election campaigning should be fair, balanced, impartial and systematically monitored;

Or. en

**Amendment 34**  
**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***2a. Draws attention to the Member States with regard to the need for competent and politically independent authorities, designated in accordance with national law, to respond promptly to possible irregularities, complaints or reminders in connection with restrictions on editorial independence or on media pluralism and media freedom; to this end, calls on Member States to ensure that these authorities take all necessary measures to carry out checks and impose sanctions where appropriate;***

Or. ro

**Amendment 35**  
**Francis Zammit Dimech, Julia Reda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***2 a. Is perturbed about the recourse by***

*powerful commercial entities to SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) practices in an attempt to silence journalists from carrying out their work or otherwise interfere with their content. Calls upon the European Commission to take note of this trend and to propose legislation that would curtail these abusive practices.*

Or. en

**Amendment 36**  
**Evelyne Gebhardt**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*2 a. is concerned about the situation of media pluralism in the European Union; as the Media Pluralism Monitor co-financed by the European Union shows a risk of media pluralism in nearly every Member State and especially in the concentration and transparency of media ownership and access to media for women and minorities*

Or. en

**Amendment 37**  
**Francis Zammit Dimech, Julia Reda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*2 b. Reaffirms that in line with the European Charter of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, freedom of expression is one of the most fundamental values to safeguard democracy and to enhance our European identity. Freedom of expression is not*

*only meant to protect journalists and their sources but above all is meant to protect the right of society as a whole to receive information about all issues of interest to it.*

Or. en

**Amendment 38**

**Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3.      *Reiterates its call on all Member States where defamation is a criminal offence to decriminalise it and to ensure that defamation laws respect the right to freedom of expression in conformity with European and international human rights standards;***

***deleted***

Or. en

**Amendment 39**

**Tadeusz Zwiefka, Jens Rohde**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3.      *Reiterates its call on all Member States where defamation is a criminal offence to decriminalise it and to ensure that defamation laws respect the right to freedom of expression in conformity with European and international human rights standards;***

***deleted***

Or. en

**Amendment 40**

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**Emil Radev**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

3. *Reiterates its call on all Member States where defamation is a criminal offence to decriminalise it and to ensure that defamation laws respect the right to freedom of expression in conformity with European and international human rights standards;*

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 41  
Gilles Lebreton**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

3. Reiterates its call on all Member States *where defamation is a criminal offence to decriminalise it and* to ensure that defamation laws respect the right to freedom of expression *in conformity with European and international human rights standards;*

3. Reiterates its call on all Member States to ensure that defamation laws respect the right to freedom of expression;

Or. fr

**Amendment 42  
Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a. Stresses the need to establish and maintain a corresponding balance between protecting freedom of expression and media independence and pluralism,**

*and the obligation of Member States to respect and protect private and public life, family life, the home and communications, as well as citizens' personal data, in accordance with Articles 7 and 8 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; draws attention to the fact that media freedom and media pluralism, as well as freedom of expression, must not under any circumstances affect the individual freedoms guaranteed by a range of national, European and international instruments; stresses, in this connection, that editorial independence necessarily presupposes a high level of responsibility with regard to the information supplied, particularly bearing in mind that the accelerating volume of news has given rise to serious shortcomings on the part of journalists, such as the failure to check and doublecheck journalistic sources;*

Or. ro

**Amendment 43**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 a.** *Is concerned of the high amount of journalists and other media workers in Europe that are increasingly being threatened, harassed, subjected to surveillance, physically attacked and even killed because of their investigative work and reporting on the misuse of power, corruption, human rights violations and criminal activities; regrets that only a small percentage of threats or harassments of journalists are reported to the police; Calls on the Member States to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media workers by ensuring proper enforcement of applicable laws and through*

*monitoring and reporting on threats and harassment;*

Or. en

**Amendment 44**  
**Tadeusz Zwiefka**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*3 a. Underlines the need to restore and promote the basic rules that govern journalism and the journalist ethics; stresses in this respect that responsibility for the information published lays both with journalists and editors; points out that while it is fairly easy to hold traditional media responsible for the possible defamation, this is not the case with so called new media*

Or. en

**Amendment 45**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*3 b. Calls on the Member States to ensure that crimes against journalists and other media workers are adequately addressed under national law and to avoid impunity. Member States should moreover ensure to follow-up to the Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors;*

Or. en

**Amendment 46**  
**Tadeusz Zwiefka, Michał Boni**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 b.    *Calls on the Member states for more social media education programmes and further actions so that the public could better distinguished between reliable information and fake news***

Or. en

**Amendment 47**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 c.    *Stresses the need of ensuring good working conditions for journalists and media workers, as a means to avoid undue internal and external pressure, dependency, vulnerability and instability and the risk of self-censorship;***

Or. en

**Amendment 48**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 d.    *Reiterates that working conditions and the safety and security of journalists and other media workers is a prerequisite to guarantee their role fully in order to***



*inform citizens on matters of public interest; Therefore calls on the Member States and media organisations to ensure fair working conditions for journalists and other media workers;*

Or. en

**Amendment 49**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*3 e. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote a healthy political debate and lasting political engagement towards the respect of fundamental human rights through media literacy, media pluralism and ethics;*

Or. en

**Amendment 50**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 f (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*3 f. Highlights that journalists and other media workers are often specifically targeted because of their gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, membership of a minority group and, religion. Female journalists and other female media workers face specific gender-related dangers, including sexist, misogynist and degrading abuse, threats, harassment and sexual aggression and violence. These violations are increasingly taking place online; Calls on the Commission to develop studies with statistics on threats and harassments of journalists and other*

*media workers through gender lenses;*

Or. en

**Amendment 51**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 3 g (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3 g.    *Calls on the Member States and the social partners for urgent, resolute and systemic responses with preventive measures in order to combat threats and sexual harassments on journalists and other media workers;***

Or. en

**Amendment 52**

**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

4.       Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;

4.       Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression; ***nevertheless points out that providing protection for whistle-blowers must be balanced with and proportional to the facts on which they are disclosing information; in order to avoid defamatory allegations, this protection should be provided on the basis of convincing, relevant and conclusive evidence and should not give rise to wrongful, disproportionate consequences for the institution, organisation or society***

*concerned;*

Or. ro

### Amendment 53

Virginie Rozière, Jytte Guteland

#### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;

##### *Amendment*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression, ***believes that this protection should set clear channels to blow the whistle allowing for public disclosure whenever the whistle-blower consider it necessary and especially in the absence of a favorable response from the organisation, or if reporting internally or to the competent authorities would obviously compromise the efficiency of the alert, if the whistle-blower is at risk or urgently needs to report information;***

Or. en

### Amendment 54

Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto, Tadeusz Zwiefka

#### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

4. ***Underlines*** that whistle-blowers ***are*** a crucial ***resource*** for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism

##### *Amendment*

4. ***Notes*** that whistle-blowers ***acting on reasonable ground can be*** a crucial ***source*** for investigative journalism and ***thus contribute to*** an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance

of opinion and freedom of expression;

with the *treaties and the* Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression; *the protection of whistle-blowers goes hand in hand with the confidentiality of their sources, however, balanced with the fundamental rights of the accused natural and legal persons;*

Or. en

## Amendment 55

Emil Radev

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; *calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;*

##### *Amendment*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press;

Or. en

## Amendment 56

Gilles Lebreton, Marie-Christine Boutonnet

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 4

##### *Draft opinion*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for *investigative journalism and an independent press*; calls on the *Commission* therefore *to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;*

##### *Amendment*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for *democracy and for investigative journalism*; calls on the *EU Member States*, therefore, *to guarantee their* protection;

**Amendment 57**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;

*Amendment*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide **a strong** EU-wide protection **of whistle-blowers (including measures against retaliation)** in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;

Or. en

**Amendment 58**  
**Virginie Rozière, Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;

*Amendment*

4. Underlines that whistle-blowers are a crucial resource for investigative journalism and an independent press; calls on the Commission therefore to provide EU-wide **horizontal** protection in accordance with the Union objectives of democracy, pluralism of opinion and freedom of expression;

Or. en

**Amendment 59**  
**Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto, Tadeusz Zwiefka**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 a.** *Underlines that false accusations or misleading information can have far reaching effects for people and businesses; recalls that in the event of false accusations, those responsible should be held accountable for their action and not benefit from whistle-blower protection; stresses that any person who is defamed by inaccurate or misleading information needs to be afforded effective redress mechanisms;*

Or. en

**Amendment 60**  
**Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 a.** *Notes that new technologies have dramatically changed the business model of traditional press; nonetheless, believes that, with a consistent legal framework, digitisation has the potential to foster competition between media actors and democratise access to and creation of information and content;*

Or. en

**Amendment 61**  
**Francis Zammit Dimech, Julia Reda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 a.** *Moreover, emphasises that Member States must ensure that whistle-*

*blowers must be given equal protection on a non discriminatory basis. Such protection must also adequately and effectively cover workers in the public sector and be administered independently of the government.*

Or. en

**Amendment 62**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 a. Highlights that whistle-blowers that are employed in the organisation concerning the actual whistle-blowing act, are particular vulnerable to severe reprisals and therefore are in extra need of protection against reprisals and retaliation;*

Or. en

**Amendment 63**

**Virginie Rozière, Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 a. Points out that guaranteeing the confidentiality of sources is fundamental to freedom of the press; calls on the Member States to ensure that the right of journalists not to reveal a source's identity is effectively protected;*

Or. en

**Amendment 64**

**Tadeusz Zwiefka, Jens Rohde**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 a.** *Points out that, especially in the era of the Internet, one false accusation based on unchecked information can destroy whole businesses and people's lives*

Or. en

**Amendment 65**

**Virginie Rozière, Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 b.** *Notes that investigative journalists and members of the independent press pursue a profession that is often solitary and in the course of which they face many kinds of pressure, that there are also vulnerable and therefore that it is essential they be protected against all attempts at intimidation and should benefit from legal protection;*

Or. en

**Amendment 66**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4 b.** *Recognises that the "right to blow the whistle" in all cases where information is disclosed in all good faith and is clearly in the public interest, for*



*example where infringements of fundamental rights or of criminal law, including active or passive corruption, or facts that reveal a threat to safety, health or the environment are concerned;*

Or. en

**Amendment 67**  
**Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 b. Takes note of the new challenges that traditional and new media are confronted with due to the rise of new technologies and digitisation, such as the 'filter bubble' phenomenon linked to the extensive use of algorithms, the respect of the fundamental right to privacy or the improperly so-called phenomenon of 'fake news';*

Or. en

**Amendment 68**  
**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4 c. Calls on the Member States to ensure to follow-up to the Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors;*

Or. en

## Amendment 69

Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto

### Draft opinion

#### Paragraph 5

##### *Draft opinion*

5. Highlights that the *fight against* ‘fake news’, *namely false news and other disinformation spread deliberately via* the media, *should not result in restricting* freedom of *internet usage*; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to tackling disinformation; *is satisfied with the work of the* East StratCom Task Force *and the establishment of the High Level Expert Group on* fake news *and online disinformation.*

##### *Amendment*

5. Highlights that the *deliberate misinformation created or spread in order to make financial or political gains, so called* ‘fake news’, *break the relationship of trust between* the media *and citizens and have a potential to endanger liberal democracies as well as to undermine our democratic values such as* freedom of *expression and the rule of law; as social media has made the circulation of such fake information much easier than in the traditional media, solutions need to be found to hold authors of fake news accountable for their action in digital media as is the case in the offline world; stresses that strict regulation or censorship of thoughts and views cannot be the response, but that rather assurance of reliability of information and educated, critically thinking citizens as well as media literacy form part of the solution;* calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to tackling disinformation; *highlights in this respect the need for media consumers to be able to distinguish between facts and pure opinions; stresses that the EEAS Strategic Communication Division and in particular the current* East StratCom Task Force *actively contributing to the development and implementation of a strategy against dissemination of* fake news *needs an overall upscale and reinforced resources to carry out its tasks properly.*

Or. en

## Amendment 70

Tadeusz Zwiefka

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Highlights that the *fight against* ‘fake news’, namely false news and other disinformation spread deliberately via the media, should *not result in restricting* freedom of internet *usage*; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to tackling disinformation; *is satisfied with* the work of the *East StratCom* Task Force and the establishment of the High Level Expert Group on fake news and online disinformation.

*Amendment*

5. Highlights that the *phenomenon of* ‘fake news’, namely false news and other disinformation spread deliberately *especially* via the *social* media, *is a rising and worrying trend and the fight against* ‘fake news’, should *be more effective*; *underlines that so called* freedom of *the* Internet *cannot be an excuse for inaction*; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to tackling ‘fake news’ and disinformation, *keeping in mind that the access of the public to information must not be censored*; *welcomes* the work of the *EastStratCom* Task Force and the establishment of the High Level Expert Group on fake news and online disinformation

Or. en

**Amendment 71**  
**Gilles Lebreton, Marie-Christine Boutonnet**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Highlights that the fight against ‘fake news’, *namely false news and other disinformation* spread deliberately via the media, should not result in restricting freedom of internet usage; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to *devote sufficient resources to tackling disinformation*; *is satisfied with the work of the East StratCom Task Force and the establishment of the High Level Expert Group on fake news and online disinformation*.

*Amendment*

5. Highlights that the fight against ‘fake news’, *disinformation that is* spread deliberately via the media, should not result in restricting freedom of internet usage; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to *resist the temptation to use this fight to restrict that freedom*.

Or. fr

**Amendment 72**  
**Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Highlights that the fight against ‘fake news’, namely false news and other disinformation spread deliberately via the media, should not result in restricting freedom of internet usage; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to *tackling disinformation; is satisfied with the work of the East StratCom Task Force and the establishment of the High Level Expert Group on fake news and online* disinformation.

*Amendment*

5. Highlights that the fight against ‘fake news’, namely false news and other disinformation spread deliberately via the media, should not result in restricting freedom of internet usage, *e.g. by imposing on information society service providers any monitoring obligations in contravention of Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council*; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to *and develop concrete specific measures concerning education and media literacy, which are fundamental to tackle* disinformation *and propaganda*;

Or. en

**Amendment 73**  
**Evelyne Gebhardt**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Highlights that the fight against ‘fake news’, namely false news and other disinformation spread deliberately via the media, should not result in restricting freedom of internet usage; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to tackling disinformation; is satisfied with the work of the East StratCom Task Force and the establishment of the High Level Expert Group on fake news and online disinformation.

*Amendment*

5. Highlights that the fight against ‘fake news’, namely false news and other disinformation spread deliberately via the media, should not result in restricting freedom of internet usage; calls for the Member States and EU institutions to devote sufficient resources to tackling disinformation *and to take coordinated measures against publishers and distributors of deliberate fake news*; is satisfied with the work of the East StratCom Task Force and the establishment of the High Level Expert Group on fake

news and online disinformation.

Or. en

**Amendment 74**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 a.** *Emphasizes the need to analyse and monitor the emerging problems with false news in the digital sphere and to develop concrete measures both at national and European level.; Welcomes therefore the initiative of the European Commission to establish a High Level Expert Group on fake news and disinformation online comprising representatives from the civil society, media actors and platforms, journalists, social partners and academia in this regard;*

Or. en

**Amendment 75**

**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 a.** *Notes that the transparency of ownership and of direct or indirect state funding is not satisfactory in any of the examined Member States; expresses its concern that in almost all Member States some media companies are owned by companies that are active in other business sectors, typically those that receive public resources or are otherwise connected to the public sphere (such as construction, energy, defence, transport);*

**Amendment 76**  
**Heidi Hautala**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5 a. Notes with concern that while media freedom and pluralism are a key tenet of democracy, without this freedom the citizens cannot hold the government accountable or make an informed decision about exercising their right to vote; that limitations to media freedom and pluralism will therefore lead to democratic deficit; and that democratic deficit in one Member State will affect the whole of the European Union.***

Or. en

**Amendment 77**  
**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5a. Calls on the Commission to launch campaigns, and to support campaigns in the Member States, geared to promoting and highlighting the need for and importance of media education that will provide citizens with critical interpretation and selection skills in the face of the ever-increasing volume of information;***

Or. ro

**Amendment 78**  
**Tadeusz Zwiefka, Michał Boni**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 a.** *Underlines the responsibility of online actors in avoiding the spread of unverified or untrue information with the sole purpose of increasing the online traffic through the use of e.g. so-called clickbait;*

Or. en

**Amendment 79**  
**Isabella Adinolfi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 a.** *Highlights that, in a pluralistic and democratic society, citizens need to be properly and fully informed in order to actively and effectively participate in public life and take part in political debates;*

Or. en

**Amendment 80**  
**Evelyne Gebhardt**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 a.** *is concerned about the professional situation of journalists due to financial uncertainties and the amount of threats and attacks they face; thus highlights the importance of coordinated action*

**Amendment 81**

**Jens Rohde, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 a. Welcomes the Commission's announcement to prepare a strategy to counter fake news, to be published in due course**

Or. en

**Amendment 82**

**Jytte Guteland**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 b. In the evolving digital media ecosystem, new intermediaries have emerged with the ability to influence and control information and ideas online by acquiring gate-keeping functions and powers; Underlines that there must be sufficient independent and autonomous online channels and services and sources with the capability of ensuring a plurality of opinions and democratic ideas to the public on issues of general interest; Calls on the Member States to develop new, or existing national policies and measures in this regard;**

Or. en

**Amendment 83**

**Evelyne Gebhardt**



**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 b.** Welcomes the “Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights 2016 focus on media pluralism and democracy” and the recommendations of the High Level Group on media freedom and pluralism; reiterates its call for legislative measures to ensure standards of media pluralism at European level for print media, libels, concentration of media ownership and the transparency of media ownership, etc.; states that the common social and political space in Europe requires a guarantee for a well-working democracy

Or. en

**Amendment 84**  
**Jens Rohde, Morten Løkkegaard, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 b.** Highlights the need for Member States to complement EU efforts to counter fake news and to engage at all levels, including in cooperation with the EU neighbourhood, to foster a pluralistic media environment to communicate EU policies truthfully, coherently and comprehensively,

Or. en

**Amendment 85**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 b.** *Deplores that an EU regulation on ownership concentration has been put on hold several times because of a lack of political consensus; stresses that Member States and European institutions shall not hesitate to fully support a complete scheme of regulating media pluralism;*

Or. en

**Amendment 86**  
**Heidi Hautala**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 b.** *Calls for biennial assessments of potential risks to media pluralism and freedom in the Member States, by an independent committee of experts appointed by the Commission; calls for the European Commission to propose measures to address the findings of these evaluations.*

Or. en

**Amendment 87**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 c.** *Recommends that all media enterprises, including printed and online press, should identify their direct and indirect owners and every person who benefits from ownership; notes that this information shall be accessible to all European citizens and made searchable for purposes of monitoring and*

*supervision by European and national authorities, researchers, industry stakeholders and citizens; proposes therefore the creation of a relevant searchable database in which media companies' ownership shall be registered up to the ultimate owner and maintained by the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities and the European Commission;*

Or. en

**Amendment 88**

**Jens Rohde, Morten Løkkegaard, Jean-Marie Cavada, António Marinho e Pinto**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5 c. Emphasizes that principles of media freedom, freedom of speech and media pluralism are as relevant for pre-accession countries and the European Neighbourhood area as it is for member states; calls on the Commission to ensure that these principles are strengthened and adequately monitored in these countries and that assistance programs are made contingent upon adherence to these principles.*

Or. en

**Amendment 89**

**Julia Reda**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5 c. Expresses concern over the negative effect of national ancillary copyright laws on the revenues of small publishers; Calls on the Commission and*

*on the Member States to refrain from the introduction of an ancillary copyright for publishers and calls on them to instead consider introducing a presumption rule for the benefit of press publishers<sup>1a</sup>;*

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*<sup>1a</sup> The ancillary copyright for press publishers was introduced in Germany (Article 87f-h of the German copyright law, Urheberrechtsgesetz) and in Spain (article 32.2 of the Spanish copyright law, ley de Propiedad Intelectual). In Germany, the collecting society tasked by publishers with the enforcement of the ancillary copyright reveals in its annual reports that the annual regular income from this law remains below 10.000 Euros. In contrast, the costs for enforcement are now several million Euros, as shown in the Joint Research Center Paper 'Online News Aggregation and Neighbouring Rights for News Publishes', that was made public on December 20, 2017.*

Or. en

**Amendment 90**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5 d. Suggests that in order to efficiently safeguard media freedom and pluralism the participation in public procurement by companies whose ultimate owner also owns a media company should be prohibited or at least be made fully transparent; proposes that Member States shall be required to regularly report on all public funding provided to media enterprises and that all public funding provided to media owners should be regularly monitored; stresses that media owners shall not have been*

*convicted or found guilty of any criminal offence;*

Or. en

**Amendment 91**

**Heidi Hautala, Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 d (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5 d. Notes the attempts by public officials to restrict the dissemination of information by journalists by the abuse of secrecy or intellectual property legislation; Calls on the Commission to propose broader safeguards for journalists to freely access, use and re-use information obtained in their course of work;*

Or. en

**Amendment 92**

**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5 e. Recommends that the Audiovisual Media Service Directive should be amended to require Member States to ensure media freedom and pluralism by putting in place adequate rules for combating concentration in the market, enhancing the level of the journalistic profession and media literacy in all countries (e.g. by encouraging self-regulation, promoting education and applying best practices in the field of journalists' source protection), ensuring the independence of the National Regulatory*

*Authorities, effectively protecting cultural and social diversity;*

Or. en

**Amendment 93**

**Heidi Hautala, Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 e (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5 e. Calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that journalists are given the proper tools to inquire and receive information from EU and Member State administrations;***

Or. en

**Amendment 94**

**Heidi Hautala, Julia Reda, Francis Zammit Dimech**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5 f (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5 f. Calls on the Commission to urgently review Regulation 1049/2001 and to propose improvements to the public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents; calls on the Commission to abstain from any more efforts to prevent or deter journalists and members of the public from seeking and obtaining information held by the Commission through arbitrary hurdles; Notes with indignation any attempts to deny access to information by the use of delay tactics, bogus reasons for dismissal or unjustified narrowing of the scope of information that was requested<sup>1b</sup>;***

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<sup>1b</sup> ***In several cases, Member States have***

*invoked copyright in order to prevent journalists from disseminating information of public interest (most famously: Unterrichtungen des Parlaments - a series of reports by the German Government to members of Parliament regarding the ongoing military deployments, such as Afghanistan). One of these cases is currently pending at the ECJ after local courts ruled in favour of the government and granted an injunction against a newspaper who published these reports. Regulation 1049/2001 - Access to information to EU documents has not been improved since 2001. On the contrary, the Commission introduced new interpretation in 2014 to the Regulation to introduce bureaucratic hurdles in order to discourage people from seeking documents via Regulation 1049/2001. The Regulation is in dire need of an update to properly account for the possibilities or proactive publication and internet mediated access (which was not taken into account in 2001). On a practical level, the access to information to Commission documents is often thwarted by misapplication of the Regulation and the systematic use of delay tactics. The Commission uses an overly narrow definition of what constitutes information unless the requester specifically asks for all information. Even then important documents such as drafts and comments are often discarded and remain undisclosed. The EMIS committee of inquiry recommended several changes to access to information in the EU, including: "83. Calls on the Commission to improve its capacities to handle document requests from committees of inquiry as well as from journalists and citizens under respective applicable document access rules, in a timely manner and with an acceptable level of quality; urges the Commission to release these documents in their native format and refrain from time-consuming and potentially content-altering format changes and format conversions; further*

*instructs the Commission to make sure that information that is stored in a machine-readable format, e.g. a database, is also released in a machine-readable format''.*

Or. en

**Amendment 95**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 f (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5 f. Highlights that specific rules on how state aid to media outlets can be granted, shall be defined in order to reap the benefits of subsidising worthy media outlets, while preventing the misuse of this tool;*

Or. en

**Amendment 96**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 g (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5 g. Stresses that any public funding to media organisations should be given on the basis of non-discriminatory, objective and transparent criteria which shall be made known in advance to all media;*

Or. en

**Amendment 97**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**

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**Paragraph 5 h (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 h.** *Proposes that any public funding to media outlets should only be available for media organisations which publish a code of conduct easily accessible to the public;*

Or. en

**Amendment 98**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 i (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 i.** *Underlines that any public ownership of the media shall be subject to strict rules prohibiting governmental interference, guaranteeing internal pluralism and placed under the supervision of an independent body representing all stakeholders;*

Or. en

**Amendment 99**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 j (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5 j.** *Reiterates that access to public sources and events shall depend on objective, non-discriminatory and transparent criteria;*

Or. en

**Amendment 100**  
**Kostas Chrysogonos**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 k (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5 k. Notes that Member States shall ensure that appropriate instruments are put in place for identifying those responsible for harming others through media, even in the online space, while fully respecting the fundamental rights;***

Or. en