

**Question for written answer P-001216/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Another journalist murdered in the EU and the need to increase the protection of journalists and whistle-blowers

Jan Kuciak is the second investigative journalist to have been murdered in the EU over the last five months. Like Daphne Caruana Galizia in Malta, Kuciak was investigating cases of corruption in his country, Slovakia, having previously worked on the Panama Papers disclosures.

The most important and worrying aspect of the two cases/murders is that both journalists were investigating cases of corruption involving government officials.

Does the Commission agree that, as an institution, it has the authority to act as an honest broker and to ask the Slovak government to clarify how the investigations are proceeding so as to get to the bottom of the murder as soon as possible? Does it also agree that it should do likewise vis-à-vis the Maltese government regarding the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia, since that investigation is progressing too slowly?

Will the Commission also concede that it is now time to effectively strengthen the protection given to journalists and whistle-blowers by issuing a European directive in this regard?