



**2017/2209(INI)**

6.11.2017

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

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

Rapporteur (\*): Curzio Maltese

(\*): Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Emphasises that access to quality, free and independent information is a fundamental human right, that media pluralism is the pillar of democracy and that the media's independence from political and economic powers and influences must be guaranteed accordingly;
2. Recalls that the formation of public opinion is based upon a social pact between citizens and media professionals aimed at influencing those in power for the purposes of general interest; notes with the gravest concern that the financing system for the press has collapsed, resulting in dominant media players using information to pursue political and commercial propaganda objectives, thereby dramatically lowering the quality of information and giving rise to phenomena such as 'fake news';
3. Stresses that online media pluralism is under serious threat from the excessive concentration of corporate power; asks the Commission and the Member States, therefore, to overcome regulatory deficiencies in order to create legal clarity and consistency to ensure media freedom and prevent the abuse of their dominant position by web giants;
4. Highlights the fact that freedom of information in Europe is being jeopardised by increasing intimidation of and acts of aggression against journalists, as proven by the recent murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia;
5. Underlines that media professionals often work in precarious conditions with regard to their contracts, salaries and social guarantees, which compromises their ability to work appropriately and thus hampers media freedom;
6. Emphasises that a critical use of media content is essential to people's understanding of current issues and to their contribution to public life; calls, therefore, on the Commission and the Member States to promote and support media literacy projects.