3.11.2021

Amendment 1
Clare Daly, Manon Aubry
on behalf of The Left Group

Report
Tiemo Wölken, Roberta Metsola
Strengthening democracy, media freedom and pluralism in the EU (2021/2036(INI))

Motion for a resolution
Recital Q a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Qa. whereas the detention and criminal prosecution of Mr Julian Assange set a dangerous precedent for journalists; whereas Mr Assange’s extradition to the United States should be barred and he should be promptly released, as affirmed and recommended by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in its Resolution 2317 of 28 January 2020 on threats to media freedom and journalists’ security in Europe;

Or. en
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

1. Highlights that SLAPPs are vexatious, a direct attack on the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms, and aim to silence the diversity of critical public thought and opinion, including through journalistic self-censorship; underlines that fundamental rights and democracy are linked to upholding the rule of law, and that undermining media freedom and public democratic participation, including the freedoms of expression and information, of assembly and of association threatens Union values as enshrined in Article 2 of the TEU; is of the opinion that SLAPPs are particularly worrying if they are funded directly or indirectly from state budgets and are combined with other indirect and direct state measures against independent media outlets, independent journalism and civil society; welcomes the fact that the Commission’s 2020 rule of law report includes SLAPP lawsuits in its assessment of media freedom and pluralism across the Union, and that this report points to concrete measures and best practices for countering them; calls for future annual reports to include a thorough assessment of the legal environment for the media and investigative journalism in particular, and to look more thoroughly at challenges affecting journalists and civil society and
the chilling effect that SLAPPs can have on these actors; highlights that SLAPP lawsuits are a threat to a free and pluralist media; calls on the Commission to also issue country-specific recommendations and assess their progress, including on issues concerning the situation of media freedom within the Member States;
Amendment 3  
Clare Daly, Manon Aubry  
on behalf of The Left Group

Report  
Tiemo Wölken, Roberta Metsola  
Strengthening democracy, media freedom and pluralism in the EU  
(2021/2036(INI))

Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution  

1a. Calls on the Member States to recognise the serious harm SLAPPs cause to those speaking out against injustice and drawing attention to risks or irresponsible practices by business actors; believes that Member States should reform any laws that criminalise freedom of expression, assembly or association, and facilitate an environment where criticism is part of healthy debate on any issue of public concern; is of the opinion that businesses should be held accountable for any acts of retaliation against journalists, rights defenders, whistleblowers, activists or NGOs;

Or. en