AMENDMENTS
1 - 93

Draft opinion
Maria Walsh
(PE737.240v01-00)

The protection of journalists around the world and the European Union’s policy on the matter
(2022/2057(INI))
Amendment 1
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Recalls that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers; deplores, however, that some governments and individuals in positions of power around the globe are systematically threatening this right;

Amendment

1. Recalls that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe and in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; recalls that this fundamental human right includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers; stresses that the rights to freedom of expression and information are indispensable conditions for journalists, in order to assist citizens' active participation in a democratic society, for the realisation of the principles of transparency and accountability; recalls that public authorities have the duty not only to refrain from implementing restrictions on freedom of expression, but also the obligation to adopt a legal and regulatory framework which fosters the development of free, independent and pluralistic journalism, and the responsibility to ensure that journalists and their sources are protected by strong laws, the prosecution of perpetrators and ample security where necessary;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, João Albuquerque, Domèneç Ruiz Devesa
Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

1. Recalls that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers; deplores, however, that some governments and individuals in positions of power around the globe are systematically threatening this right;

Amendment

1. Recalls that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities or commercial entities and regardless of frontiers; deplores, however, that some governments, commercial entities and individuals in positions of power around the globe are systematically threatening this right;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Catherine Griset

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Recalls that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers; deplores, however, that some governments and individuals in positions of power around the globe are systematically threatening this right;

Amendment

1. Recalls that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authorities; deplores, however, that some governments and individuals in positions of power around the globe are systematically threatening this right;

Or. fr

Amendment 4
Diana Riba i Giner
Highlights that over the past years some governments have engaged in attempts to stifle dissent by attacking journalists and human rights defenders who live abroad through acts of transnational repression in which those governments reach across national borders to silence critical voices among diaspora and exile communities, disregarding international law, human rights and democratic values;

1a
https://freedomhouse.org/report/transnational-repression

Or. en

Amendment 5
Alexis Georgoulis

Deplores that numerous governments, companies, associations and individuals in positions of power around the globe are systematically threatening the fundamental human right to freedom of expression; believes that the European Union must lead by example, and is therefore particularly concerned that even many EU countries have taken alarmingly negative developments regarding press freedom, with 9 of them being classified as "problematic" and only 6 of 27 as "good" in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders; highlights the fact that freedom of journalism in the EU is being jeopardised
by increasing intimidation and acts of aggression against journalists, as proven by recent murders such as the one of Daphne Caruana Galizia and Giorgos Karaivaz;

1a

Amendment 6
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, João Albuquerque, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

1a. Highlights the essential role that journalists and editorial teams play to impart information, allowing the public to access reliable news, to sharpen their insights and hold opinions on issues of public interest; recalls that journalism has been considered an essential “third party” to ensure checks and balances in democratic systems while ensuring pluralistic, public and independent reporting on news; insists in this respect that such role requires a safe environment for journalists and other media professionals to work and live;

Amendment 7
Elżbieta Kruk

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)
1a. Highlights that the largest number of journalists in Europe have been unjustly imprisoned in Belarus, including Andrzej Poczobut, a prominent journalist and activist of the Polish minority in Belarus, who was also included on Lukashenka's 'terrorist list';

Or. en

Amendment 8
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1a (new)

Draft opinion
Amendment

1a. Recalls that transnational repression remains a global threat to journalists around the world and that insufficient tools exist to protect its intended targets;2b


Or. en

Amendment 9
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1b (new)
1b. Calls on the EU and the Member States to educate and raise awareness about the threat of transnational repression and to adopt measures to constrain the ability of states to commit acts of transnational repression, to increase accountability for perpetrators of transnational repression, and to provide protection for at-risk journalists, exiles and diasporas;¹³c

³c Freedom House Policy Recommendations on Transnational Repression
https://freedomhouse.org/policy-recommendations/transnational-repression

Or. en

Amendment 10
Elżbieta Kruk
Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion
Amendment

1b. Demands, in addition to the release of all political prisoners-journalists, the unblocking without exception of all independent media in Belarus, blocked in 2018-2022;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Alexis Georgoulis
Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion
Amendment
1b. Is deeply concerned regarding the challenge sector-specific pathogenies that need relevantly sector-specific policy intervention, including in the online environment;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

1c. Expresses serious concern about the shrinking space for civil society organisations, and the threat to journalists, human rights defenders and others – who communicate on important matters within the public interest that are critical of powerful members of society;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

1c. Is deeply concerned regarding the challenge sector-specific pathogenies such as already deeply established networks promoting the bribery of financially-dependent journalists to drive public opinion towards desired directions, against public interests;

Or. en
Amendment 14
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 d (new)

Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion

Amendment

Id. Believes that the EU and Member States should put in place measures aiming at ensuring news and other editorial media is based on public values and is open, democratic, sustainable and inclusive in which more women, people from racial and ethnic minorities, migrants and refugees, as well as members of LGBTQ+ communities and people with disabilities, occupy creative and decision-making positions;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Notes with regret that there has been a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals, which is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace and is creating a general sense of insecurity; deplores that 57 journalists have been killed in 2022¹, 78 journalists are being held hostage and 478 journalists are currently imprisoned²; demands that all detained journalists be released immediately;

2. Is deeply concerned that journalists, especially female journalists, and other media actors are facing increasing violence, acts of aggression, intimidation, threats, harassment, pressure, self-censorship, public shaming and even assassination as a result of carrying out their job to protect the public interest; notes with regret that a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace, creating a general sense of insecurity; is shocked that 57 journalists have been killed in 2022¹, 78 journalists are being held hostage and
478 journalists are currently imprisoned; demands from the Member States and the EEAS to undertake everything in their power to achieve the immediate release of all detained journalists; recollects in this context the importance of its "Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism", notes, however, that symbolism and public awareness are insufficient for improving the situation in the long term; therefore calls for effective protective measures and robust investigation and prosecution of criminal threats against journalists and other media professionals, drawing particular attention to threats against women journalists and journalists representing or reporting on equality;

1 https://cpj.org/data/killed/2022/?status=Killed&motiveConfirmed%5B%5D=Confirmed&motiveUnconfirmed%5B%5D=Unconfirmed&type%5B%5D=Journalist&type%5B%5D=Media%20Worker&start_year=2022&end_year=2022&group_by=location


Amendment 16
Maria Walsh

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

2. Notes with regret that there has been a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals, which is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace and is creating a general sense of insecurity; deplores that 57
journalists have been killed in 2022, 78 journalists are being held hostage and 478 journalists are currently imprisoned; demands that all detained journalists be released immediately; in particular Women journalists face increasing offline and online attacks and are subject to disproportional and specific threats. The gender-based violence they are exposed to implies stigmatisation, sexist hate speech, trolling, physical assault, rape and murder.

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1 https://cpj.org/data/killed/2022/?status=Killed&motiveConfirmed%5B%5D=Confirmed&motiveUnconfirmed%5B%5D=Unconfirmed&type%5B%5D=Journalist&type%5B%5D=Media%20Worker&start_year=2022&end_year=2022&group_by=location

Amendment 17
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion
2. Notes with regret that there has been a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals, which is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace and is creating a general sense of insecurity; depletes that 57 journalists have been killed in 2022, 78 journalists are being held hostage and 478 journalists are currently imprisoned; demands that all detained journalists be

Amendment
2. Notes with regret that there has been a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals, which is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace including in the European Union and is creating a general sense of insecurity; depletes that 63 journalists have been killed between the 6th of January and the 20th of November 2022, 78 journalists are being held hostage and 478 journalists are currently imprisoned.
released immediately; imprisoned over the world; demands that all detained journalists be released immediately;

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1 https://cpj.org/data/killed/2022/?status=Killed&motiveConfirmed%5B%5D=Confirmed&motiveUnconfirmed%5B%5D=Unconfirmed&type%5B%5D=Journalist&type%5B%5D=Media%20Worker&start_year=2022&end_year=2022&group_by=location  

Amendment 18
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes with regret that there has been a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals, which is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace and is creating a general sense of insecurity; deplores that 57 journalists have been killed in 2022, 78 journalists are being held hostage and 478 journalists are currently imprisoned; demands that all detained journalists be released immediately;

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1 https://cpj.org/data/killed/2022/?status=Killed&motiveConfirmed%5B%5D=Confirmed&motiveUnconfirmed%5B%5D=Unconfirmed&type%5B%5D=Journalist&type%5B%5D=Media%20Worker&start_year=2022&end_year=2022&group_by=location  

Amendment

2. Notes that ensuring the safety of journalists is the precondition for effective media freedom. Regrettably, there has been a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals, which is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace and is creating a general sense of insecurity; deplores that 57 journalists have been killed in 2022, 78 journalists are being held hostage and 478 journalists are currently imprisoned; demands that all detained journalists be released immediately;

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1 https://cpj.org/data/killed/2022/?status=Killed&motiveConfirmed%5B%5D=Confirmed&motiveUnconfirmed%5B%5D=Unconfirmed&type%5B%5D=Journalist&type%5B%5D=Media%20Worker&start_year=2022&end_year=2022&group_by=location
2. Notes with regret that there has been a rise in violence towards journalists and media professionals, which is increasingly happening in countries officially at peace and is creating a general sense of insecurity; deplores that 57 journalists have been killed in 2022\(^1\), 78 journalists are being held hostage and 478 journalists are currently imprisoned\(^2\); demands that all detained journalists be released immediately; 

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\(^1\) https://cpj.org/data/killed/2022/?status=Killed&motiveConfirmed%5B%5D=Confirmed&motiveUnconfirmed%5B%5D=Unconfirmed&type%5B%5D=Journalist&type%5B%5D=Media%20Worker&start_year=2022&end_year=2022&group_by=location

\(^2\) https://rsf.org/en/number-journalists-arbitrary-detention-surges-20-488-including-60-women
2a. Stresses that investigative journalism should be promoted as a form of civic engagement and as an act of civic virtue supported by communication, learning, education and training; deplores that journalists and whistleblowers have been subject to legal prosecution instead of legal protection when, acting in the public interest, they disclose information or report suspected misconduct, wrongdoing, fraud or illegal activity; calls on the Commission and Member States to protect whistleblowers, as whistleblowing is one of the most effective ways of uncovering corruption; whistleblowers often take on high personal risk and the absence of effective protection can discourage potential whistleblowers from reporting their concerns or suspicions for fear of unfair treatment, including retaliation, discrimination or disadvantage; protection should also extend to people facilitating the reporting, intermediaries and investigative journalists;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Domènec Ruiz Devesa

2a. Condemns in the strongest terms the assassination of David Beriain and Roberto Fraile in Burkina Faso on the 26 April 2021 are among the last of an increasing list of despicable
assassinations of European journalists in Europe and abroad; notes that the OSCE reports that impunity prevails as, for example, fewer than 15% of murders of journalists in the OSCE region are solved; calls on all European institutions and the Government of Burkina Faso to take all possible actions to end impunity and bring those responsible for their deaths to justice, recalls that accountability is a key element in preventing future attacks;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

2a. Further emphasises that non-physical violence, such as threats, harassment, surveillance, and intimidation journalists are subjected to is no less threatening to the media freedom, as it can lead to suppression of public information - either by enforcing a censorship or suppression by state authorities or private parties with power, or self-censorships when journalists wish to avoid penalties or reprisals; emphasises the need to safeguard journalists against every type of violence according to the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, João Albuquerque, Domène Ruíz Devesa
2a. Strongly condemns the severe violations of the principles of the rule of law in some Member States, which are causing serious danger in relation to fundamental rights and freedoms, including media freedom; emphasises the link between deteriorating rule of law standards and violations of fundamental rights, amongst which attacks against journalists and free media, and the widespread collection of intercepted data with direct effects on silencing journalists, and calls on the Commission to use all available means to take action against these attacks;

Or. en

2a. Is concerned about the increase in hate speech, notably against independent media and journalists, civil society organisations, rights defenders, activists, whistleblowers, artists, and academics, especially those from marginalised groups including women, racialized people, LGBTIQ+ people and people with disabilities as well as others which has a significant psychological impact on those affected and creates a chilling effect and threatens freedom of expression and freedom of the press;

Or. en
Amendment 25
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

2b. Notes that working conditions in the media sector are deteriorating and often journalists 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; underlines the importance of ensuring adequate working conditions for journalists and media workers, in full compliance with the requirements of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Social Charter;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

2b. Notes with the highest concern that the Commission’s rule of law reports have evidenced the worrisome occurrence of threats and attacks of journalists, both online and offline, including within the European Union; insists in this respect that digital policies play a key role for the protection of journalists, media freedom and pluralism, freedom of expression and information;

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Or. en
Amendment 27
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

2b. Recalls that the digital environment poses increasing risk to journalists’ safety online including ransomware attacks on news media websites, the use of spyware and coordinated smear campaigns that are run and coordinated by State or non-State actors;

Amendment 28
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, João Albuquerque, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

2c. Stresses that women journalists, and journalists belonging to minorities, are specific targets of online violence aimed at discrediting, humiliating and silencing them\(^{1a}\); calls therefore on Member States to adopt strong and comprehensive national legislations and action plans to counter online harassment, with special attention to these journalists;
Amendment 29  
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domène Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion  
Paragraph 2 d (new)

Draft opinion

2d. Highlights the crucial need of a safe environment for journalists to carry out their jobs; warns on the far-reaching effects of financial or political pressures on editors and journalists that can result in widespread self-censorship; in this context calls for the promotion of best practices to safeguard the editorial independence of media services including in their structural organisation and management, as well as measures to ensure the public disclosure of actual or potential conflicts of interest by any party having a stake in media service providers that may affect the provision of news and current affairs content; encourages at the same time the setting-up at national level of risk mitigation strategies to protect journalists covering protests and demonstrations;

Amendment 30  
Alexis Georgoulis
3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine; believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole; 

3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda, as well as disproportionate actions to tackle them, are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine; 

stresses that the internet and social media plays a significant role in spreading hate speech and fostering radicalisation leading to violent extremism, especially far-right violent extremism; in this context, is concerned about problematic developments of the administration of social media platforms that undermine the credibility of individual journalists, notably the recent changes in verification requirements for blue checkmarks on Twitter, which have the potential to damage the reputation of legitimate journalism and hence to increase the dissemination of disinformation; 

believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union claims to stand for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole; 

emphasizes the interdependency of media freedom with other freedoms of expression - such as of the arts and science - and their mutual prerequisite and equally fundamental importance for a liberal democracy;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa
3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine; believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole; notes that this trend has been exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war of aggression against Ukraine; believes that this situation puts at risk the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole; recalls that a strong and independent media landscape requires economic sustainability of the media; in this context, welcomes the EU Media and Audiovisual Action Plan specific actions such as ‘NEWS’\(^1a\), aimed at facilitating access to finance through loans and equity finance for media services organisations, and countering the emergence of ‘news deserts’;

3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine; believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole;

Or. fr

Amendment 33
Victor Negrescu
Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine; believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole;

Amendment

3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine; emphasizes that such phenomena can also have the effect of reducing trust in public institutions as well as affect legitimate media outlets and journalists; believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Elżbieta Kruk

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war against Ukraine; believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole;

Amendment

3. Highlights that the freedom of media and media pluralism have increasingly come under threat in recent years with globalisation of media streams, and that disinformation and propaganda are growing trends in the media landscape worldwide; notes that this trend has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war against Ukraine; believes that this situation should be considered a general threat to the values the European Union stands for as a global actor and to democracy as a whole;

Or. en

Amendment 35
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

3a. Calls on the Member States to guarantee that the public service media is free from censorship and political influence; that supervisory boards are appointed by qualified non-partisan individuals that will act in the public interest and not that of any one political party or ideology; calls for funding mechanisms to support public interest media and investigative journalism that challenges corruption;

Amendment

3a. Calls on the Member States to guarantee that the public service media is free from censorship and political influence; that supervisory boards are appointed by qualified non-partisan individuals that will act in the public interest and not that of any one political party or ideology; calls for funding mechanisms to support public interest media and investigative journalism that challenges corruption;

Or. en
Amendment 36
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, João Albuquerque, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

3a. Notes with concerns that as an effect of the general digitalisation and globalisation of the media market, a growing number of journalists are forced in to freelance non-contract and precarious work; recalls the essential right of journalists, including freelancers, to join or form trade unions and benefit from decent working conditions including fair remuneration and social protection 1a;

1a

Or. en

Amendment 37
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

3a. Is concerned by recent developments of wire-tapping scandals throughout the EU, such as the ones investigated by the PEGA Committee; stresses that independent journalism cannot be achieved if journalists are being targeted by their governments, using spyware such as Predator or Pegasus spyware, allegedly used in countries such as Greece;
Draft opinion

Paragraph 3a (new)

Draft opinion

3a. Highlights in this regard the need to promote, support and invest in education focused on using the existing Media Information Literacy as a tool in Non-EU countries to ensure broader understanding of information received, ensure critical thinking and achieve the understanding of societal value of journalism;

Draft opinion

Amendment

Amendment 38
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Amendment 39
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Acknowledges that the recent scandal of surveillance of journalists through spying software such as Pegasus or Predator is a direct attack to independence of medias and violates the protection of sources at the basis of the profession in order to collect information freely and reliably; looks forward to the conclusion of the European Parliament’s inquiry committee and its recommendations to better protect citizens and journalists from undue and oppressive use of such software in the future.
Amendment 40
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Calls on the EU and the Member States to re-evaluate the profound links between media freedom and democracy and identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information and media literacy;

Amendment

4. Highlights that the media play an essential role in democratic society, by acting as public watchdogs, while fostering citizens’ conscious participation in democratic life; emphasises that a critical use of media content is essential to people’s understanding of current issues and to their contribution to public life; therefore calls on the Commission and the Member States to re-evaluate the profound links between media freedom and democracy, and to identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information, media literacy and the promotion of and support for critical thinking especially at schools, and artistic freedom;

Amendment 41
Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Calls on the EU and the Member States to re-evaluate the profound links between media freedom and democracy and identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information and media literacy;

Amendment

4. Stresses the essential role of education in ensuring critical thinking and the capacity to discern information, especially in the online environment; calls on the EU and the Member States to re-evaluate the profound links between media freedom and democracy, and to identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information, media literacy and the promotion of and support for critical thinking especially at schools, and artistic freedom;
information and media literacy; freedom and democracy and identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information and media literacy; reiterates its call for media education to be included in formal and informal settings in order to foster media literacy, skills and competences from an early age;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Calls on the EU and the Member States to re-evaluate the profound links between media freedom and democracy and identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information and media literacy;

4. Calls on the EU and the Member States to identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication including in the digital sphere, with a particular focus on fact-checking tools for media professionals and the spreading of best practices in the profession, making best use of new technologies such as the Journalism Trust Initiative 1a, professional training on digital skills, as well as empowering citizens through education on information and media literacy;

1a https://www.journalismtrustinitiative.org/education for information and media literacy

Or. en

Amendment 43
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten
Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

4. Calls on the EU and the Member States to re-evaluate the profound links between media freedom and democracy and identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information and media literacy;

notes that ensuring media freedom should be included in all EU partnerships programs with third world countries, either through the bilateral agreements of as a part of regional development partnerships;

Amendment

4. Calls on the EU and the Member States to re-evaluate the profound links between media freedom and democracy and identify pathways to rebuild safe spaces for information and communication with a particular focus on education for information and communication; notes that ensuring media freedom should be included in all EU partnerships programs with third world countries, either through the bilateral agreements of as a part of regional development partnerships;

Or. en

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. Expresses concerns about the so called ‘news fatigue’, a growing lack of interest in seeking information especially from younger generations and the serious effects this may have on the future functioning of our democratic systems; recalls that citizens nowadays increasingly access news and editorial content through online platforms that influence access to information; calls for more media information literacy and digital literacy in educational curricula for younger generations in order to better equip them with methods on how to access effectively information, sort sources, debunk disinformation and address online
incivilities with the objective of helping them to manage ‘infodemia’ while underlining the societal value of journalism and rebuilding trust in the media; in this respect, looks forward to the Commission’s mid-term review of the Digital Education Action Plan (2012–2027);

Or. en

Amendment 45
Alexis Georgoulis
Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

4a. Reaffirms the need to independently monitor the media freedom and pluralism situation in the EU and globally, and therefore encourages the Commission and the Member States to implement and further enhance existing instruments, such as the Media Pluralism Monitor; calls on the EU to adopt and implement a media ownership regulatory framework in order to avoid horizontal concentration of ownership in the media sector and indirect and cross-media ownership, and to guarantee transparency;

Or. en

Amendment 46
Alexis Georgoulis
Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

4a. Recognises the urgent need for
journalists to know their rights and protection mechanisms; calls therefore on the Commission and the Member States to promote programs and policies aimed at fostering education of journalists, media actors and the general public on their rights and protection mechanisms, including but not limited to showcasing real examples and best practices;

Amendment 47
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Believes that civil society organisations play a key role in fostering media literacy and asks therefore the Commission and Member States to include them as stakeholders in initiatives dedicated to promote journalism and media literacy;

Amendment 48
Elżbieta Kruk

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Encourages the Commission to continue and expand its programmes to support independent journalists from Belarus and media outlets broadcasting from EU countries (in the Belarusian language) to audiences in Belarus;


Amendment 49
Elżbieta Kruk

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4b. Draws attention to the essential role of the state media in Russia in indoctrinating the public with the language of hatred and propaganda in favour of the war of aggression against Ukraine; considers that the management and staff of these media outlets must be subject to appropriate personal sanctions;

Or. en

Amendment 50
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4b. Recognises the importance of democracy and education on media literacy; calls therefore on the Commission and the Member States to promote programs and policies aimed at fostering media and news literacy for journalists, media actors and the general public;

Or. en

Amendment 51
Alexis Georgoulis
4c. Calls on the Commission to promote as well online media literacy, investigating for public engaging and innovative means to this cause and under the logic of common policies intended to bridge the digital divide within and among the Member States along all its lines (wealth, gender, age, geographical and social conditions);

5. Believes that in order to improve its external governance and its credibility, the EU needs to lead by example and deliver on its domestic media policy ambitions; welcomes, in this context, the adoption of the Digital Services Act\(^3\), and the recently published proposals for a directive against ‘strategic lawsuits against public participation’ (the anti-SLAPP directive) (COM(2022)0177) and the European Media Freedom Act (COM(2022)0457), which are signs the EU is taking a more robust approach to media policies; However, a lot more needs to be done; recalls that SLAPPs are lawsuits or other legal actions based on civil, administrative and criminal law, as well as the threats of such actions, initiated by state organs, business corporations and individuals who hold power of one kind or another against weaker parties, such as journalists, and others, who express
criticism or transmit uncomfortable messages to the powerful, on public matters, and as a result bring about lack of information distribution and lack of freedom of expression by the media/journalists;


Or. en

Amendment 53
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domèneq Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

5. Believes that in order to improve its external governance, the EU needs to lead by example and deliver on its domestic media policy ambitions; welcomes, in this context, the adoption of the Digital Services Act\(^3\), and the recently published proposals for a directive against ‘strategic lawsuits against public participation’ (the anti-SLAPP directive) (COM(2022)0177) and the European Media Freedom Act (COM(2022)0457), which are signs the EU is taking a more robust approach to media policies;

Draft opinion

5. Believes that in order to improve its external governance, the EU needs to lead by example and deliver on its domestic media policy ambitions with full coherence and consistency; welcomes, in this context, the adoption of the Digital Services Act\(^3\), and calls for effective measures to be introduced in the future directive against ‘strategic lawsuits against public participation’ (the anti-SLAPP directive) (COM(2022)0177), including training and funding for journalists and lawyers to be able and better defend journalists, and in the recently published European Media Freedom Act (COM(2022)0457) and accompanying Recommendation\(^{1a}\); believes these texts are signs the EU is taking a more robust approach to media policies; takes the view that these could be inspirational for other regions in the world and contribute to set positive global standards;

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\(^{1a}\) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H16
Amendment 54
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

5a. Stresses that media’s independence from political and economic powers and influences must be guaranteed; calls on the Commission and the Member States to provide appropriate, proportionate and stable funding for public service media, thus ensuring it can fulfil its cultural, social and educational role, and contribute to an inclusive information society, while guaranteeing its independence from governmental influences; highlights in this context the potential of the Creative Europe programme in promoting a free, diverse and pluralistic media environment by encouraging crossovers and cross-cutting activities supporting the news media sector, by providing support for new media professionals, and by enhancing the development of critical thinking among citizens by means of promoting media literacy; calls for further strengthening of these actions in the programme’s next MFF cycle;

Or. en

Amendment 55
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Notes with concern that most EU countries are characterised by a high degree of market concentration with monopoly or oligopoly in the broadcasting sectors, oligopolies in newspaper industries and significant competition in magazine and book publishing; also notes that these main players co-exist with a myriad of smaller news media operators focusing on local or regional news or specialised in particular topics; believes that the Commission and Member States need to increase support for the media sector and should pay special attention to local and regional media operating in small markets;

Or. en

Amendment 56
Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Is concerned that media organisations are increasingly relinquishing their duty of care within and beyond the EU towards journalists employed by them or those producing the content they acquire; notes the increasing use of freelancers, particularly young journalists and media workers at the start of their career, to cover high-risk areas and conflict zones; is concerned by the precarious working and decreasing safety conditions under which freelancers operate from high-risk areas and conflict zones;

Or. en
Draft opinion
Paragraph 5a (new)

5a. Emphasises that the current context of socioeconomic instability also has an impact on the media sector, especially on small and local media outlets and calls in this regard for better protection and support mechanisms; Stresses that more measures are needed to ensure the media sector's sustainability in the context of growing reliance on social media as a source of information, and calls to increase the level of information and know-how about the EU by the different national media;

Amendment

5a. Recalls that defamation is still punished under criminal law in some countries; refers to the Commission's recommendation in its rule of law reports as well as to the Council of Europe's recommendations for a change in this respect to ensure proportionality and respect of human rights;

1a https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/-/decriminalisation-of-defamation-supported-by-the-council-of-
Amendment 59
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Calls on the Commission and Member States to establish a permanent news media fund to support independent editorial coverage, safeguard the independence of European journalism, and guarantee the freedom of press and involve associated and partner countries outside the EU with a dedicated tool;

Or. en

Amendment 60
Loucas Fourlas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Welcomes the launch of the European Digital Media Observatory, a platform aimed at helping fact checkers and researchers to network and at providing media practitioners, teachers and individuals with information to help
them to better understand fake news;

Or. en

Amendment 61
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Űuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Lokkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Highlights that the EUs institutions have made significant steps for creating a safe and enabling environment for journalists, for instance the Council of Europe has proposed several recommendations\(^3\) and the EP has adopted guidelines and recommendations for ensuring safe practice of journalism\(^3\) that should encouraged to become a part of national action plans for safeguarding media freedom and safety of journalists in Non-EU countries;

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\(^3\) Standards on Public Service Media, Council of Europe, November 2022; Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4 on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors, Council of Europe, April 2016; Implementation Guide to Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4- How to protect journalists and other media actors?, Council of Europe, June 2020

\(^3\) EEAS, EU Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline, 2014; European Commission, Media freedom and pluralism, n.d.; European Commission, Recommendation on the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists, 16 September 2021; European Commission,
Amendment 62  
Diana Riba i Giner  
Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 b (new)  

5b. Reiterates emphatically its repeated calls for the creation of a permanent European news media fund with a cross-border component to support critical voices in Europe, empower independent news coverage, safeguard the independence of European journalists and journalism, and guarantee the freedom of the press;

Amendment 63  
Victor Negrescu  
Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 b (new)  

5b. Highlights that journalists also face threats in the online environment that consequently have affect freedom of expression; calls for dedicated training and formation for journalists to equip them with digital skills necessary to tackle cybersecurity risks and online threats;

Amendment 64  
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa
Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Highlights the relevance of specific support for the protection of journalists and media independence and salutes dedicated actions in the Creative Europe programme, notably to foster rapid response mechanisms to protect journalists under threat;

Or. en

Amendment 65
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Suggests the development of media freedom indicators and media freedom tests, following the example of the recently developed youth indicators and youth tests;

Or. en

Amendment 66
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5c. Recalls the 2016 Council of Europe Recommendation on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors and the
2021 European Commission Recommendation on the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists; calls on the Member States, as well as the candidate countries, to implement these recommendations, and take measures to ensure safer working conditions for all media professionals in the Union, free from surveillance, fear and intimidation, whether online or offline; regrets the lack of means to monitor the implementation of these recommendations and calls for progress in this area;

Or. en

Amendment 67
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion Amendment

5c. Recalls that several international protection mechanisms and tools ensuring safety of journalists, such as European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, training for journalists, protection mechanisms of UN, namely Special Rapporteurs and Universal Periodic Review, UN treaty bodies and UNESCO exist; in that regard calls on the Commission and Member States to increase their financing for creating their more prominent presence and effectiveness in their core purpose;

Or. en

Amendment 68
Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5c. Calls for higher visibility of EU funding opportunities, as well as of European media hubs and partnerships that can have a positive impact in ensuring media freedom by sharing good practices and exchanges between journalists;

Or. en

Amendment 69
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5d. Recalls the essential role of investigative journalists to uncover issues of public interest that would otherwise be rather kept hidden; underlines that investigative journalism may be costly and risky, and calls for media organisations to be economically and structurally equipped and resourced to enable journalists to carry out their investigations; recalls at the same time the crucial importance protecting journalistic sources; in this context, welcomes the adoption of the Whistleblower directive, but regrets the shortcomings of the tiered channels reporting system it establishes, which restrictive conditions for reporting to the media may in effect limit the protection for those reporting to the public and deter them from reporting wrongdoing, contrary to the aims of the whistle blower protection mechanisms; calls on the Commission to look at this aspect in its monitoring of the transposition and implementation of the law by Member
States, with a view to evaluating any needs for review of said mechanisms;


Or. en

Amendment 70
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 d (new)

Draft opinion Amendment

5d. Reminds that a UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity have been adopted in 2012 and provides a comprehensive framework for holistic solutions for prevention of attacks, protection of journalists and prosecution of perpetrators; highlights that a High-Level Conference, held in Vienna in November 2022, to mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption called for reaffirm, recommit and reposition of the adopted action plan to increase its impact;

Or. en

Amendment 71
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domèneck Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 e (new)

Draft opinion Amendment

5e. With a rate of impunity for crimes
of violence against journalists still around 90%\textsuperscript{1a}, recalls that it should be put an end by providing justice to the victims as impunity only leads to more violence and a broader and general sense of injustice and insecurity for journalists; in this respect, looks forward to the establishment under the new Global Europe programme for Human rights and democracy, of the Observatory on the fight against impunity\textsuperscript{1b} with a special focus on journalists to contribute to collect and use evidence and knowledge for advocacy and accountability at global, regional and national levels.

\textsuperscript{1a} https://rsf.org/en/protect-journalists
\textsuperscript{1b} https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_22_6430

Amendment 72
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 e (new)

\textit{Draft opinion} \hspace{1cm} \textit{Amendment}

5e. \textbf{Calls on the Member States whom have not done so to join and actively participate in the Media Freedom Coalition, an intergovernmental partnership advocating for media freedom online and offline, and the safety of journalists;}

Amendment 73
Catherine Griset
Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

6. Calls on the Commission to include suspension mechanisms in the EU’s multilateral and bilateral partnership or trade agreements; invites the Commission to support and monitor media freedom and use targeted sanctions or suspend agreements in the event of persistent and systematic violation of media freedom;

Amendment

6. Calls on the Commission to include suspension mechanisms in the EU’s multilateral and bilateral partnership or trade agreements; invites the Commission to support and monitor media freedom and use targeted sanctions or suspend agreements in the event of persistent and systematic violation of media freedom; 
calls on the Commission to make access to EU funds for media and news organisations conditional to the fulfilment of their duty of care, in particular, by complying with paragraph 16 of the Recommendations on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors from the Council of Europe;

Or. en
Amendment 75
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Řuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

6. Calls on the Commission to include suspension mechanisms in the EU’s multilateral and bilateral partnership or trade agreements; invites the Commission to support and monitor media freedom and use targeted sanctions or suspend agreements in the event of persistent and systematic violation of media freedom;

Amendment

6. Calls on the Commission to include suspension mechanisms in the EU’s multilateral and bilateral partnership or trade agreements; invites the Commission to support, strengthen and monitor media freedom outside of the EU, as it is outlined in the European democracy action plan, increase the scope and reach of the EU Protect Defenders Mechanism and use targeted sanctions or suspend agreements in the event of persistent and systematic violation of media freedom;

3c The EU Protect Defenders Mechanism provides financial and legal support and relocation for hundreds of journalists every year (425 journalists were directly supported in 2019)

Or. en

Amendment 76
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, João Albuquerque, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

6. Calls on the Commission to include suspension mechanisms in the EU’s multilateral and bilateral partnership or trade agreements; invites the Commission to support and monitor media freedom and use targeted sanctions or suspend agreements in the event of persistent and systematic violation of media freedom;

Amendment

6. Calls on the Commission to include suspension mechanisms in the EU’s multilateral and bilateral partnership or trade agreements; invites the Commission to support and monitor media freedom and use targeted sanctions or suspend agreements in the event of persistent and systematic violation of media freedom,
including when these violations are taking place in the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 77
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

6. Calls on the Commission to include suspension mechanisms in the EU’s multilateral and bilateral partnership or trade agreements; invites the Commission to support and monitor media freedom and use targeted sanctions or suspend agreements in the event of persistent and systematic violation of media freedom;

Or. en

Amendment 78
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

6a. Stresses that it is essential to ensure and maintain the independence of private and public service media from any internal and external political interference, whether from governments, powerful interest groups or third countries; believes it is crucial therefore that any funds earmarked for the media and channelled through Member States be conditional on a process that guarantees fair and objective distribution in support of independent quality journalism and respects the rule of law;
Amendment 79
Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

*Draft opinion*

6a. **Calls on the Commission to dedicate specific support on EU wide training on safety for journalists working in Europe and abroad, as well as editors, to be developed by unions and associations; with a special focus on female and freelance journalists;**

Amendment

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Amendment 80
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domène Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

*Draft opinion*

6a. **Invites the Commission to implement emergency visas for journalists at risk and engage in outreach to support journalists at risk via delegations abroad regarding in-country assistance and trial monitoring for non-EU states**

Amendment

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Amendment 81
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)
6a. Stresses the need to have in place independent monitoring mechanisms, including rapid response mechanisms, to assess the situation of media freedom and media pluralism in the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 82
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domèneç Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

6b. Supports the creation for a Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Safety of Journalists enabling to increase prevention and raise the costs of crimes against journalists while providing concrete and rapid help towards the defence of journalists namely getting journalists released, establishing protective measures and contributing to the administration of independent justice against perpetrators.

Or. en

Amendment 83
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

6b. Asks the Commission to proceed to investigations for a mapping of the journalism sector in the EU and around the world in order to convey already
established sector-specific pathogenies;

Or. en

Amendment 84
Alexis Georgoulis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. Strongly asks the Commission to proceed to sector-specific policy interventions to address sector-specific pathogenies such as - but not limited to - deeply established networks promoting the bribery of financially-dependent journalists to drive public opinion towards desired directions, against public interests;

Or. en

Amendment 85
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

Amendment

7. Recalls that the Russian disinformation campaign before and during the war on Ukraine has triggered urgent sanctions that are partially being evaded by state media; calls therefore for an appropriate and sustainable legal framework establishing a free information space protection mechanism based on the reciprocity of openness requirements; believes that this mechanism should be built on two pillars: 1) equal treatment – for all audio-visual outlets broadcasting on
EU territory; 2) reciprocity – openness of public space for EU broadcasters in third countries and territories.

Amendment 86
Catherine Griset

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

7. Recalls that the Russian disinformation campaign before and during the war on Ukraine has triggered urgent sanctions that are partially being evaded by state media; calls therefore for an appropriate and sustainable legal framework establishing a free information space protection mechanism based on the reciprocity of openness requirements; believes that this mechanism should be built on two pillars: 1) equal treatment – for all audio-visual outlets broadcasting on **EU** territory; 2) reciprocity – openness of public space for EU broadcasters in third countries and territories.

Or. en

Amendment 87
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domène Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

7a. **Underlines that safety of journalists and of journalism is as**
important in peacetime as in wartime; underlines however, the specific challenges that arose in the context of the war of aggression from Russia against Ukraine with the context of global disinformation campaign from Russian regime; calls the EU to keep supporting journalists fleeing censorship and state campaigns of propaganda in helping them to change territory, to continue operating from a safe place and to reinstall their independent media outside their country to continue providing freely reported and reliable information.

Amendment 88
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

7a. Stresses that in some Member States political parties use media as vehicles to disseminate disinformation, while in others conglomerates with a large market share may exercise political interference; considers increased transparency and fact-checking obligations as remedies to counteract these practices; welcomes initiatives such as the Media Ownership Monitor and the Media Pluralism Monitor;

Amendment 89
Loucas Fourlas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)
7a. Calls on the Member States and media organisations to guarantee that journalists can carry out their work to the highest standards by ensuring fair remuneration, good working conditions, the protection of journalistic sources, providing with quality training for both contractual and freelance media professionals

Amendment 90
Irena Joveva, Laurence Farreng, Lucia Žuriš Nicholsonová, Ilana Cicurel, Morten Løkkegaard

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

7a. Highlights the need to strengthen codes of ethics and journalistic standards established by press and media councils and support solidarity and collaboration between journalists and media outlets to improve journalist safety;

Amendment 91
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, João Albuquerque, Domèneç Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 b (new)

Draft opinion

7b. Underlines the value of the work performed by reporters and correspondents in zones of conflicts to acknowledge the reality on the field and
gather facts and information on the evolution of the conflict and the behaviour of the belligerents, permitting among other things to report the eventuality of war crimes; stresses that these journalists are often deliberately obstructed in armed conflicts and those media professionals can face access denial, censorship and harassment as well as arbitrary detention and brutal attacks\(^1\a\); insists that this type of work needs specific support such as supply of adequate equipment, free or affordable basic training in self-defence, in data protection and encryption, as well as post-traumatic treatment; encourages the EU to continue supporting networks of at risk journalists and reinforcing journalists ‘ability to operate in hostile environments across the world, including by providing protective equipment and assistance\(^1\b\).


Amendment 92
Diana Riba i Giner

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 b (new)

Draft opinion

7b. Strongly believes that in order to fulfil their role as watchdogs of democracy journalists should be able to enjoy decent working conditions and should be able to work safely and without threats or harassment; warns against the increasing precariousness of journalists
often forced into false freelance contracts that cuts costs and undermines standards; is of the strong opinion this sector must be protected through stronger labour regulation;

Amendment 93
Sylvie Guillaume, Hannes Heide, Massimiliano Smeriglio, Victor Negrescu, Domènec Ruiz Devesa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7c. More generally, encourages EU and national policies to address causes of distress and insecurity in the journalistic profession, should it originate in reporting under dangerous conditions or in other causes including denigration or intimidation.