



0010/2016

1.2.2016

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression and freedom of the media

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Lapse date: 1.5.2016

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on promotion and protection of freedom of expression and freedom of media¹

1. Respect for the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union is ensured, inter alia, by diverse and independent media facilitating the free flow of information and ideas, which promote and protect freedom of opinion and expression in society.
2. They represent a fulfilled commitment on the part of society to democracy and political accountability.
3. The related rights and freedoms include freedom to seek and receive information, freedom of expression and of opinion, including artistic expression, the right to safety for journalists, press freedom and acceptance of a critical point of view vis-à-vis the exercise of official duties.
4. Without freedoms guaranteed for the media, an informed and engaged citizenry is impossible.
5. As journalism helps to uncover unwanted phenomena in society and informs in many ways about the variety of the intercultural contemporary world, it is faced with challenges and the risk of intimidation and therefore deserves support and a minimisation of burdens.
6. The Commission is hence called upon to monitor these freedoms, to inform Parliament on its findings and to open a dialogue with the Member States on greater protection and promotion of freedom of expression and freedom of the media.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.