

**Question for written answer E-000360/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dimitrios Papadimoulis** (The Left), **Konstantinos Arvanitis** (The Left), **Alexis Georgoulis** (The Left), **Petros Kokkalis** (The Left), **Stelios Kouloglou** (The Left), **Elena Kountoura** (The Left)

**Subject:** Criminal proceedings against investigative journalists in Greece

Former investigative journalist Gianna Papadakou has been subpoenaed by the Greek authorities, in breach of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the ECHR, on charges of complicity in the fabrication by a criminal organisation of a 'fake scandal' regarding Novartis and the 'Lagarde List'. Investigative journalist, Kostas Vaxevanis is also facing charges of membership of a criminal organisation, breach of duty and abuse of power in relation to the Novartis scandal, which was brought to public attention in Greece by the two journalists in question, resulting in the company coming to an out-of-court settlement of USD 346 million with the US government. The proceedings against the two journalists has caused an outcry from press organisations and press freedom observatories. In the meantime, Greece is at the bottom of the Press Freedom Index, and Commission Vice President Vera Jourová, has acknowledged that it is one of the most problematic countries in this respect.

Given that freedom of the press, which is an integral part of democracy and the rule of law, is being targeted by intimidation tactics and SLAPP lawsuits:

1. Does the Commission consider such actions to be a direct attacks on press freedom?
2. Does it intend to make known its particular concerns about the proceedings being taken against the two investigative journalists?
3. What specific action is it willing to take to protect investigative journalism and freedom of the press in Greece?