The Commission is committed to safeguarding free and independent media, which is central for any democracy, and an integral part of the rule of law. This is even more important in the current context of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, which highlighted both the core value of media freedom and pluralism as well as the importance of fighting against disinformation and information manipulation.

The Commission is aware that the detention of Mr González has been reported by the Council of Europe platform on safety of journalists\(^1\). The Commission does not enjoy a general right of intervention in individual criminal, civil or administrative cases before national courts or other national authorities. The analysis of factual situations and adjudication fall within the competence of the national judiciary, in this case the Polish judiciary.

The Commission expects Member States to provide for an enabling environment for the media and journalists, and monitors the developments concerning media pluralism and media freedom in the Member States, including Poland, in the context of the annual Rule of Law Report and its follow-up\(^2\). As in previous years, the Commission’s 2022 Rule of Law Report will assess developments pertaining to the press freedom and the safety of journalists.

In addition, the Commission has adopted a Recommendation on ensuring the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists and other media professionals\(^3\) and has recently presented the proposal for a Directive on civil procedural safeguards providing protection from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings against public participation (SLAPP) to better protect journalists targeted by abusive court proceedings\(^4\). The Commission is also preparing a European Media Freedom Act to safeguard media freedom and pluralism in the internal market.

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1. See: [https://fom.coe.int/en/pays/detail/11709560](https://fom.coe.int/en/pays/detail/11709560)