

**Question for written answer E-001654/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dimitrios Papadimoulis** (The Left)

Subject: Drastic curbs on press freedom in Greece in 2022

The 2022 Press Freedom Index published today by ‘Reporters Without Borders’<sup>1</sup> places Greece 108th out of 180 countries, down by 38 places from 2021. Greece is now behind all the other the EU Member States, ranking below even Hungary and Poland. Pavol Szalai, head of the European Union and Balkans desk of Reporters Without Borders, lists a number of factors reflecting the further decline of press freedom in Greece (the assassination of Giorgos Karaivaz, threats to journalists from those involved in organised crime, the surveillance and criminal prosecution of journalists, non-transparent and inequitable public funding and lack of independence of the media, etc.). He observes in this connection that ‘the problem is not only the inability of the Greek authorities to protect journalists, but also their apparently deliberate attempts to clamp down on press freedom’<sup>2</sup>. The need for immediate measures to protect press freedom, a cornerstone of democracy and the rule of law, has been amply demonstrated by its further dramatic decline over the last year.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say whether it intends to take immediate measures to halt the constant erosion of press freedom in Greece in addition to just keeping tabs on developments emerging from the annual Rule of Law Report?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rsf.org/en/index>, <https://rsf.org/en/country/greece>

<sup>2</sup> <https://insidestory.gr/article/katakrimnizetai-hrono-me-ton-hrono-i-eleytheria-toy-typoy-stin-ellada>