

**Question for written answer E-003021/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

João Albuquerque (S&D)

Subject: Transparency of Portuguese media group ownership

Parliament's recent approval of the Commission's proposal on media freedom, the European Media Freedom Act, gives the EU institutions fresh responsibilities regarding the media company ownership and convergence.

In Portugal, changes in the shareholder structure of radio, press and digital media company Global Media Group (GMG) are public knowledge.

On 4 August 2023, the Chair of GMG's board of directors confirmed to news agency Lusa that the BEL Group had sold part of GMG to a fund, but the details of the transaction are not known. The shareholder structure is expected to change, but the size and impact of those changes remain a mystery.

In the meantime, the editorial board of the group's TSF radio station was altered without consultation of the station's journalists' board (as dictated by the Press Law), which gave rise to a 24-hour strike.

These events are concerning and have caused uncertainty. Journalists' freedom and editorial independence must be unwaveringly protected, as discussed in relation to the European Media Freedom Act. In view of this:

Is the Commission in a position to enforce compliance with ownership transparency mechanisms in the ongoing acquisition or transaction at GMG?

Submitted: 12.10.2023