

**Question for written answer E-003126/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Ukraine Facility increase in the context of raging corruption in Ukraine

Despite skyrocketing levels of corruption and the deteriorating rule of law in Ukraine, the EU has decided to increase the Ukraine Facility by an additional EUR 50 billion. Meanwhile, at the National Media Talk conference in Ukraine on 12 and 13 October in Kyiv, President Zelenskyy called on journalists not to report on corruption¹. This raises serious concerns about the independence of the media and freedom of speech, which are supposed to be key pillars of the rule of law in Europe.

1. What extra anti-corruption and anti-fraud measures will the Commission take now that the Ukraine Facility has almost doubled in size?
2. In the aftermath of the murder of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, the Commission pledged to protect the independence of the media and to crack down on any measures intended to silence journalists. What will the Commission do to make sure that the government in Kyiv does not silence journalists investigating and reporting on corruption?

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¹ <https://www.berliner-zeitung.de/news/selenskyj-forderte-journalisten-auf-stillschweigen-ueber-die-korruption-zu-bewahren-li.2149235>.