

**Question for written answer E-000124/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Economic war against investigative media outlet *Documento* and the systematic restriction of press freedom in Greece

In its annual Index, Reporters Without Borders, an institutional partner of the European Parliament, ranks Greece last among the 27 EU Member States for press freedom. In at 105th place (out of 180 countries), it performed worse than countries in the Western Balkans that are hoping to join the EU.

A case which illustrates the methods being used to restrict media freedom is the economic war being waged against the opposition weekly *Documento*, which has a long-standing tradition of investigative reporting and big scoops to its name such as those concerning the Novartis and wiretapping scandals. The newspaper is being systematically deprived of State and private advertising as well as facing SLAPP-style lawsuits and, more recently, tax controls which have resulted in *Documento* being fined hundreds of thousands of euros, posing a threat to its financial viability.

All this plays a part in limiting press freedom and is a breach of EU rules on rule of law.

In view of this:

1. What initiatives could the Commission take to help put an end to the economic war being waged in Greece against media that are critical of the government?
2. What is it doing to try to help strengthen media freedom and rule of law in Greece?

Submitted: 16.1.2024