

**Priority question for written answer P-004437/2019/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Protection of journalists in the EU

On 16 October 2017, the Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb. She had written about the links between Maltese politicians and the Panama Papers. On 21 February 2018, the Slovak journalist Ján Kuciak was shot dead together with his fiancée. He had written about tax fraud committed by businesspeople and their links to senior politicians.

These are extreme signs, but certainly not the only ones, of a broader threat to journalism and, consequently, our democracy. On 9 December 2019 ¹ the Belgian news site Apache reported, for example, that its journalists were being followed by private detectives from the business that they were investigating, with the aim of identifying their sources.

1. How can the legal protection of journalists in the EU be improved?
2. In Belgium, the Law of 19 July 1991 regulating the private detective profession does not impose any restrictions on monitoring of journalists. Can this be reconciled with European values and legislation?

¹ <https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/apache-onze-journalisten-werden-geschaduwd-door-privedetectiven~b237c2e5/?referer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fhttps://www.apache.be/2019/12/09/land-invest-group-liet-journalisten-schaduwten-door-prive-detectives/>