

**Priority question for written answer P-001123/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Alarming attacks on press freedom amidst the protests against pension reform in France

For several weeks now, millions of people have been peacefully demonstrating in France against a reform that delays the legal retirement age by two years, imposed in spite of the fact that the reform is hugely unpopular and was not voted on by the National Assembly.

In the context of this extraordinary social mobilisation, marked by numerous incidents of police violence and a deep political crisis, journalists are doing essential work on the ground to guarantee the right to information and the freedom of expression and opinion of citizens, and to establish the accountability of the public authorities.

However, Reporters Without Borders and the National Union of Journalists have condemned a shocking wave of attacks on journalists – ranging from insults to beatings – perpetrated by police forces. Journalists from the *Le Médiaweb* site were choked and then taken into custody, journalist Rémy Buisine from *Brut* was singled out and beaten by police officers, and Amar Taoualit from *Loopside* was deliberately pushed away and sprayed with tear gas. All of them were clearly identifiable and their assaults seem to have been deliberate.

1. Is the Commission concerned about these attacks on press freedom?
2. Is it monitoring the situation?
3. Would it consider launching an infringement procedure if there are suspicions that France is violating EU law?

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