

**Priority question for written answer P-000076/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Milan Zver (PPE)

Subject: Coalition government again grossly interfering in media freedom by illegally dismissing journalists and editors of the public service broadcaster (RTV)

A 'pogrom of journalists' is continuing in line with the public threat made by Prime Minister Robert Golob that agreement had been reached on how RTV would sweep away 'Janšism' (i.e. presumed supporters of former Prime Minister Janez Janša). The coalition government first replaced the entire management of the public television station at RTV, then changed the programming under new leadership and immediately scrapped the Panorama programme, which employs 15 journalists and editors. They were laid off on the grounds that 'they could not be assured of work', which is obviously not the case. This group of journalists was unceremoniously discarded without any attempt being made to reach an agreement with them or with their trade unions. The journalists were in fact only ordered on stand-by, but all had their service cards withdrawn. Yesterday, however, a draft new statute was published which provides for the dismissal of all 'undesirable journalists'. The journalists know exactly what is happening and, together with their trade union, will seek justice through the courts against these clear breaches of labour law.

The Commission is committed to the rule of law and media freedom in the Member States. I expect it to take action and would like to put to it the following question:

How will it react to this drastic interference in media freedom and how does it envisage ensuring media freedom in Slovenia and in other Member States on a more sustainable basis?

Submitted: 10.1.2024