

**Priority question for written answer P-000734/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Chiara Gemma (ECR)

Subject: Strict liability of newspaper editors-in-chief and protection from reimbursement claims in the event of bankruptcy

The legal protection of newspaper editors-in-chief is undermined by the principle of strict liability in some Member States. Editors-in-chief are responsible for all articles published even if, objectively, they cannot check all of their newspaper's pages.

Furthermore, in the event of bankruptcy, whether a newspaper changes ownership or is confiscated from its publisher, editors-in-chief also lose any legal protection.

In many countries there is no obligation for publishers to take out an insurance policy to legally cover the editor-in-chief, just as there is no obligation for publishers taking over a newspaper to take responsibility for all pending court cases. In view of this, can the Commission say what practical steps it will take to encourage the Member States to revise the principle of strict liability of editors-in-chief, to oblige publishers to legally safeguard editors-in-chief and to ensure they are protected under civil law if their newspaper goes bankrupt or is confiscated, bearing in mind that the burden of compensation and legal costs normally falls on them?

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