



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Media Policy

Audiovisual and Media Services Policy

Brussels
CNECT.I.1/PLS

Pavel Rupar
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Dear Mr Rupar,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 1 March 2023, addressed to the President von der Leyen.

The President has asked me to reply on her behalf.

In your letter, you expressed your concerns on the limited attention given to your civil initiatives and referred to the need to strengthen the freedom of expression and pluralism in Slovenian media.

In this regard, allow me first to recall the importance the European Union attaches to the protection of the freedom of expression and information, as enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which also states that “the freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected”.

The European Commission is, therefore, committed to safeguarding pluralistic and independent media, including public service media, which are vital for any democracy. In fact, the media play a crucial role in the fight against disinformation as they enable citizens to make informed decisions, fostering the development of a fair and balanced public opinion.

It is for this reason that the European Commission stepped up its action in this area in recent years, embedding media freedom in its annual rule of law reports, and presented a proposal for a European Media Freedom Act on 16 September 2022, with the view to increasing transparency in the media market and strengthening the effective freedom and independence of media vis-à-vis public and private actors.

The European Media Freedom Act, which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council, also includes a set of safeguards for the independent functioning of public service media, in order to guarantee the fulfilment of their mission.

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Moreover, in order to ensure the adequate coverage of initiatives of public interest, including those promoted by civil society organisations and other stakeholders like the ones mentioned in your letter, the European Media Freedom Act, once adopted, will also require that public service media provide impartial and pluralistic information and opinions to their audiences.

Principle 15 of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) proclaims the right to a pension commensurate to contributions and ensuring an adequate income, and the right of all older people to resources that ensure living in dignity. However, social protection, including pensions, is fundamentally in **the national competence of Member States**. The European Commission supports national efforts to ensure adequate pensions through facilitating exchange of experience, analytical guidance and long-term projections, notably in the [Pension Adequacy Reports](#).

I hope you will find this information useful.

Yours faithfully,

Anna HEROLD
Head of Unit