

### European Media Freedom Act (2024)

The European Union has adopted legislation to protect media independence, limit political pressure, and ensure transparency regarding media ownership. As a result, media pluralism and the protection of journalists are strengthened in all member states.



### Press freedom is a fundamental pillar of EU

This liberty is protected by common laws and institutions, and is advancing through the creation of European legislation. It is linked to freedom of expression and opinion. Furthermore, safeguarding it is essential to democracy and the rule of law.



### EU institutions condemning attacks on press freedom

The European Parliament and the Court of Justice of the EU criticize or sanction Member States that restrict media freedom. This shows the existence of a shared framework for defending fundamental freedoms.



### Anti-SLAPP legislation (2024)

The Council adopted a law to protect persons who speak out on matters of public interest against abusive lawsuits meant to silence them. Persons targeted by so called strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP), typically journalists and human rights defenders, will benefit from a number of procedural safeguards and measures.



### Violence and intimidation against journalists

Murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia (Malta, 2017) in a car bomb attack. An anti-corruption journalist in her country, she is known internationally for her investigation into the Panama Papers. Her assassination was one of the events that exposed serious flaws in the protection of journalists.



### Media control in Hungary

The government exerts strong influence over: public media, private media close to those in power. Moreover critical journalists are marginalized or deprived of funding.



### Press freedom threatened

Press freedom is eroding locally in places where the rule of law is weak. Indeed, it is being undermined by abuses of power at the national level, as well as political and economic pressures.



### Russian interference in the presidential elections in Romania

Moscow's involvement in electoral manipulation in favor of Călin Georgescu, a pro-Russian, nationalist, and Europhobic candidate. Even though this first round of voting was invalidated — and a pro-European centrist was ultimately elected president — these various episodes have fueled political instability in Romania and increased the population's distrust of institutions and the media.



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