R1 AM3: Media freedom and independence under attack

Proposers Young Greens of Norway

Motion text

From line 4 to 66:

increased number of threats against journalists and pressure to interfere in political reporting. ~~Examples of this influence, especially from national governments, can be found in the Italian broadcaster Rai and the Hungarian Duna Média, who tend to provide biased coverage favouring the leading party.~~Examples of national governments interfering, making news less neutral and more in favour of the leading party, are found in the Italian broadcaster Rai and the Hungarian Duna Média.

~~As it is clear that European institutions cannot and should not interfere with reporting in the single member states, the EU should guarantee the independence of public broadcasters, which should be reporting neutrally and not for the single governments.~~It's an important principle that European institutions don't interfere with the journalist reporting within member states. Something the EU*can* do is guarantee the independence of public broadcasters.

~~The EU should impose on public broadcasters of all member states to fulfill certain criteria to guarantee independent and balanced reporting. Governments should guarantee editorial independence from the Supervisory board and establish transparent and objective access mechanisms for journalists who work in public broadcasters.~~

~~Quality journalism is often buried behind advertisements and bot-driven trends in search engines. Public service media must have the right to findability to be shown under the top search results. In addition, search engines and social media platforms should be obligated to ensure algorithmic neutrality towards democratic content to prevent preferential treatment towards certain media.~~

~~Furthermore, the EU should work to build and maintain independent European digital infrastructures to reduce reliance on US companies. TV-networks like “arte” should be expanded to other European countries and be supported to reach a bigger audience and contribute to European integration through common media platforms.~~

~~It is important to not just look at the public media but also to media plurality in the private sector. In some territories, the media landscape is dominated almost exclusively by large media groups. In South Tyrol, for instance, Athesia covers more than 80% of the media~~

~~landscape and is the media outlet receiving most public funds in Italy. These conditions make it very hard for independent media to work properly and reach an audience. In addition, public discussions are primarily conducted by these large media groups, influencing the political climate in the region.~~

In the following, Young Greens of Europe will show what we believe is problematic abouth the way for instance the media, social media and the internet are handled and what solutions we would want to implement. That public media is underfinanced is a big problem that can be solved by having national goverments implementing a licence fee. Turning to the media plurality within the private media sector: In some countries or regions large media groups dominate almost exclusively . An example is Athesia in South Tyrl, which covers more than 80% of the media landscape and is the media outlet receiving the most public funding in Italy. It is crucial that trust in public broadcasting is reinforced, and we suggest many steps that seek to do so.

~~In the last few years, the quantity of misinformation and fake news has seen a considerable increase. A major deterioration happened during the COVID-19 pandemic, fuelled by the spreading of conspiracy "theories". Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is another area that has given rise to disinformation in Europe. Also concerning is that the Kremlin has used bot-farms and corruption to influence European elections, such as in Moldova or Hungary. FYEG acknowledges the European Digital Media Observatory's critical work, as it shows that the EU has started to fight misinformation. Nevertheless, disinformation campaigns continue to evade accountability, particularly on social media platforms that fail to act on EDMO's findings.~~

Social media has increasingly become a source of news and information for the public. This can be especially damaging, because the amount of likes, shares and comments a post gets is influenced by bots. The fact that there are more bots installed by autocratic regimes to influence the minds of the public, than people in social media plattforms today, is scary and a huge issue.FYEG acknowledges the European Digital Media Observatory's critical work, as it shows that the EU has started to fight misinformation. Nevertheless, social media is a place where conspiracy theories, desinformation campaigns and hate contributes negatively to public debates and politics. To increase media literacy is an important counterstep. .

~~Another problem is that many media outlets have lost trust as they are accused of pro-government reporting, especially those receiving public financing. These critics can be justified, as public financing guided by the government may impair independent journalism. It is fundamental that everyone has accessible information about public financing to media outlets.~~

~~In countries like Italy, so-called SLAPP suits are used to censor, intimidate and silence critics. Even if the plaintiff does not expect to win the lawsuit, this burdens journalists with~~

~~time and costs for a legal defence. This is a serious limitation of press freedom, as these lawsuits lead to intimidation, exhaustion and often to self-censorship.~~Journalists play a vital role in democractic societies. In countries like Italy, so-called SLAPP suits are used to censor, intimidate and silence journalists . Even if the lawsuits don't succedd, they burden journalists with time and costs for a legal defence that could be spent in the service of the public interest. Not to underestimate is the consequense of self-censorship that these lawsuits contries

~~Journalists working in war zones and conflict areas face unprecedented risks, including targeted killings, arbitrary detention, digital surveillance, and psychological warfare. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, conflicts in Southwest Asia, and authoritarian crackdowns in regions like Belarus and Turkey have made journalism one of the most dangerous professions in the world. Beyond physical threats, journalists are increasingly targeted by spyware (e.g., Pegasus), legal persecution, and economic precarity, and the prohibition of access to war zones, forcing many into self-censorship or exile. The impunity for crimes against journalists - around 85% of murders remaining unpunished according to UNESCO - further emboldens perpetrators. While many examples arise, Israel is one of the worst, having killed 86 journalists in 2025 from a total of 129 globally~~ In addition to self-sensorship, journalists working in war zones and conflict areas are in some cases brought into seeking exile, because they face unprecedented risks, including targeted killings, arbitrary detention, digital surveillance, and psychological warfare. While many examples could be mentioned, the actions of the state of Israel areamong the worst, as they are acountable for the murder of 86 journalists in 2025. , the total number in 2025 being 129 according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Without robust

Delete from line 69 to 74:

~~FYEG also acknowledges the importance of media literacy for a functioning democratic society. Education is the best way to help young people grow into well-informed citizens that can distinguish fake news from good information and populism from well-researched social-media content. Digital and media literacy also includes the identification of bots, the verification of sources and the understanding of algorithmic bias.~~

Reason

The edition made on the text aims to make the text more dense, reader friendly and to not confuse the reader with two many words that are not further defined. F.ex. public media, private media, independent media. The edited version takes the bulletpoints into account and tries to deliever a explanation for which steps is to follow to tackle the problems identified.