



European
Federation of
Journalists

JOURNALISTS' MANIFESTO

PROMOTING A FREE AND PLURALISTIC MEDIA IN EUROPE

A free and pluralistic media is crucial for European democracy . But media freedom, pluralism and independent journalism in Europe are facing increasing threats from political influence, economic pressures and the changing media landscape.

Journalists have become the first casualty of these threats. In recent years, journalists are witnessing their labour rights diminished, working conditions deteriorated, quality in journalism dropped and the loss of public confidence in the media. Various forms of (self-) censorship as a result of political and economic pressures on journalists and media have also grown across Europe.

As the largest organisation of journalists in Europe, representing over 320.000 journalists in 39 countries, the **European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)**, defends the professional rights of journalists and promote **journalism as a public good**.

We therefore call on all candidates MEPs to commit to the Journalists' Manifesto for the revival of a free and pluralistic media in Europe.

1. **DEMOCRACY NEEDS INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM**

The use of all European and national laws, particularly in the areas of privacy, security/anti-terrorism and data protection, should always take into account the EU Charter on (Art 11.) fundamental rights to freedom of expression and information including the protection of journalistic sources.

2. **EUROPE NEEDS MEDIA PLURALISM**

Favourable environment and legislation should be created to allow independent media to flourish and the concentration of media ownership should be regulated.

3. RIGHTS TO ASSOCIATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR ALL

The right of journalists, particularly of freelances, to join a union and be represented in collective bargaining and agreement, should be reinforced as guaranteed by the EU Charter (Art 12).

4. FAIR CONTRACTS FOR ALL

The authors' rights of journalists (including freelances and photojournalists) should be reinforced in EU laws regulating authors' rights and copyright ensuring that their rights to fair remunerations are guaranteed and that fair contracts negotiated at an equal footing between journalists and employers are the standard practices in the industry.

5. WORKING CONDITIONS AFFECT QUALITY IN JOURNALISM

Like all workers, journalists are entitled to decent working conditions. Their social and labour rights should be strengthened in European laws to prevent precarious working conditions that will put quality in journalism at risk.

6. JOURNALISM AS A PUBLIC GOOD

The public interest mission in journalism is best served by independent journalism. Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) should remain well-funded and independent from political influence. The preservation of a strong and independent PSB across member states is key to forming a pluralistic media landscape in Europe.

7. INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM NEEDS FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The EU should be fully open and transparent in its decision-making process by strengthening the rules on Access to Documents and lobbying transparency.

8. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

Quality and diversity in journalism can only sustain with long-term, independent funding that investing in both content and training of journalists.

9. SAFETY AT WORK

Journalists have the right to work freely without the fear of physical violence or imprisonment.

10. BUILDING TRUST AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH ETHICAL JOURNALISM

The public interest is best served by an accountable media that provide accurate and unbiased information to Europe's citizens.