

Suggested amendments to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Global Europe, integrating support to independent media and journalism as a strategic priority in EU external action

7 April 2026

This document outlines the joint position and recommendations for amendments developed by a network of organisations active in journalism support, media development, media freedom, digital rights, and the broader democracy and human rights ecosystem, collectively constituting the [EU Media Advocacy Working Group](#).

Executive Summary

We call for targeted amendments to recognise **free, plural, and independent media as a key democratic pillar and critical infrastructure** that the European Union must actively support as part of its democracy, security, and prosperity objectives. The Regulation should explicitly reference **freedom of expression, independent journalism, information integrity, access to information, journalists' safety (including exile media and of women), media sustainability, and protection against SLAPPs**, ensuring dedicated resources for these priorities.

These changes are essential to **address the collapse of public-interest information ecosystems**, rising threats and harassment and violence against (women) journalists, and the spread of disinformation online and offline. Plural media, fact-checking, and cross-border investigative journalism are central to sustainable development, democratic resilience, public accountability, and combating corruption and organised crime.

Mutually beneficial partnerships with third countries on independent media and digital infrastructure could provide opportunities for strengthening EU leadership on these issues globally and human-rights compliant public-private partnerships on innovation and infrastructure within the Global Gateway framework.

Without clear provisions, safeguards, and dedicated funding, the Regulation risks failing to address one of the most significant vulnerabilities to democracy and stability in partner countries: **the collapse of public-interest information ecosystems**.

Suggested language is added in the tables below:

- [Global Europe Instrument Proposal \(Articles and Recitals\)](#)
- [Annex II.A - Europe](#)
- [Annex II.B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf](#)
- [Annex II.C - Sub-Saharan Africa](#)
- [Annex II.D - Asia and the Pacific](#)
- [Annex II.E - Americas and the Caribbean](#)
- [Annex II.F - Global](#)

Note: Proposed changes in the Commission's proposal are marked in **bold** and **yellow**, in the [table below](#).

Global Europe Instrument Proposal – Legislative AM Table

| <u>EC Proposal Text</u> | | <u>Proposed AM</u> |
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| Article 4 – Objectives of the Instrument | | |
| (1)(a) | (a) to uphold and promote the Union’s values and interests worldwide, in order to pursue the objectives and principles of the Union’s external action, as laid down in Article 3(5) and Articles 8 and 21 TEU | (a) to uphold and promote the Union’s values and interests worldwide, in order to pursue the objectives and principles of the Union’s external action, as laid down in Article 3(5) and Articles 8 and 21 TEU, thus contributing to the reduction, and in the long term, the eradication of poverty; to consolidating, supporting and promoting democracy including safeguarding and promoting media pluralism, the rule of law and respect for human rights including gender equality; to advancing sustainable development and the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss; to addressing irregular migration and forced displacement, including their root causes; |
| Article 9 – General Principles | | |
| (4) | 4. Actions under this Instrument shall apply a human rights-based approach encompassing all human rights. That approach shall be guided by the principles of ‘leaving no one behind’, equality, non-discrimination on any grounds, including towards persons with disabilities. | 4. Actions under this Instrument shall apply a human rights-based approach encompassing all human rights and respect to fundamental freedoms, whether civil and political or economic, social and cultural in order to integrate human rights principles, to support the right holders in claiming their rights, including freedom of information, with a focus on poorer, marginalised and vulnerable people and groups, including persons with disabilities, and to assist partner countries in implementing their international human rights obligations. That approach shall be guided by the principles of ‘leaving no one behind’, equality, non-discrimination on any grounds, including towards persons with disabilities. |
| (new) | (new) | (new) The instrument shall promote and protect media freedom, freedom of expression, media integrity, and access to information, and strengthen the resilience of independent, pluralistic and sustainable media and journalism ecosystems that contribute and cater to the sustainable development and strategic interests of the Union. |
| Article 10 – Mainstreaming | | |
| | Programmes and actions under the Instrument shall mainstream the fight against climate change, environmental protection and gender equality, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) [XXX] [Performance Regulation]. Those priorities shall be considered in the design and implementation of actions under the Instrument, with the aim to create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. | Programmes and actions under the Instrument shall mainstream the fight against climate change, environmental protection, human rights, support media freedom and pluralism, and promote information integrity, and gender equality; and shall address interlinkages between the SDGs, to promote integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) [XXX] [Performance Regulation]. Those priorities shall be considered in the design and implementation of actions under the Instrument, with the aim to create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. |

Article 23 – Implementation and forms of Union Funding

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| (4) (b) | <p>(b) grants, where appropriate without the need for co-financing, to finance actions in the most difficult conditions where the publication of a call for proposals would be inappropriate, including situations where there is a serious lack of fundamental freedoms, including violation of human rights, threats to democratic institutions, escalation of crisis or armed conflict, where human security is most at risk or where human rights organisations and defenders, mediators and other civil society actors involved in crisis and armed conflict related dialogue, reconciliation and peacebuilding operate under the most difficult conditions; such grants shall not exceed EUR 1 000 000 and their duration shall not exceed 18 months, which may be extended by a further 12 months in the event of objective and unforeseen obstacles to their implementation;</p> | <p>(b) grants, where appropriate without the need for co-financing, to finance actions in the most difficult conditions where the publication of a call for proposals would be inappropriate, including situations where there is a serious lack of fundamental freedoms, including violation of human rights, threats to democratic institutions and independent media, escalation of crisis or armed conflict, where human security is most at risk or where human rights organisations and defenders, mediators and other civil society actors involved in crisis and armed conflict related dialogue, reconciliation and peacebuilding operate under the most difficult conditions; such grants shall not exceed EUR 1 000 000 and their duration shall not exceed 18 months, which may be extended by a further 12 months in the event of objective and unforeseen obstacles to their implementation;</p> |
| Recitals | | |
| (27) | <p>27) The Instrument should strengthen democratic resilience in partner countries, including by countering foreign information manipulation and interference, empowering free and pluralistic media, promoting citizens' engagement, ensuring the fairness and integrity of electoral and other democratic processes, and by engaging in public diplomacy activities.</p> | <p>27) The Instrument should strengthen democratic resilience in partner countries, including by countering foreign information manipulation and interference, empowering free and pluralistic media in line with the OECD Development Co-operation Principles for Relevant and Effective Support to Media and the Information Environment (2024), promoting citizens' engagement, ensuring the fairness and integrity of electoral and other democratic processes, and by engaging in public diplomacy activities.</p> |
| (41) | <p>41) In a global context where the Union is confronted with high geopolitical and geoeconomic competition, marked by global challenges, ranging from climate change and biodiversity loss to tensions around scarce resources, technological dependencies, continuing migratory pressure or economic and trade disruptions, in addition to security threats and fragility, external action has to continuously and rapidly react to emerging needs, as well as to act to advance strategic priorities, in order to effectively pursue the Union's and partners' priorities.</p> | <p>41) In a global context where the Union is confronted with high geopolitical and geoeconomic competition, marked by global challenges, ranging from climate change and biodiversity loss to tensions around scarce resources, technological dependencies, continuing migratory pressure or economic and trade disruptions, in addition to limitations on access to independent, reliable and plural information, security threats and fragility, external action has to continuously and rapidly react to emerging needs, as well as to act to advance strategic priorities, in order to effectively pursue the Union's and partners' priorities.</p> |

Global Europe Instrument – ANNEX II - Legislative AM Table

| EC Proposal Text | | Proposed AM | Justification |
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| ANNEX II | | | |
| Specific objectives | | | |
| Annex II.A – Europe | | | |
| (1) | Preparing candidate countries and potential candidates for accession to Union membership | | |
| (1) a) | a) Supporting the enlargement process by accelerating the alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices ('acquis') through the adoption and implementation of reforms with a view to future Union membership and through the process of gradual integration; | | |
| (1) b) | b) Strengthening the fundamentals of the enlargement process in line with the enlargement policy framework, including democracy, the rule of law, economic criteria, public administration reform, independent and efficient judiciary, fundamental rights, public procurement, statistics and financial control, justice, freedom, and security | 1.b) Strengthening the fundamentals of the enlargement process in line with the enlargement policy framework, including democracy, the rule of law, economic criteria, public administration reform, independent and efficient judiciary, fundamental rights, freedom of expression , public procurement, statistics and financial control, justice, freedom, and security | It is pivotal for Europe's future to safeguard democracy, protect societies from manipulation and disinformation, and enable growth, competitiveness, and innovation, as affirmed by the European Parliament resolution on the MFF. |
| (1) c) | c) Supporting the fight against organised crime, effectively strengthening migration management, countering irregular migration supporting visa policy alignment as well as effective border management and, where applicable, preparation for Schengen accession; | | |
| (1) d) | d) Fostering regional economic integration and progressive integration into the Union single market leading to improved neighbourly relations, a positive appreciation of integration with the Union and reducing beneficiaries' and the Union's strategic dependencies; | | |
| (1) e) | e) Accelerating the socio-economic and regulatory convergence of candidate countries' and potential candidates' with the Union and their transition to | | |

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| | economies that are capable of withstanding competitive market pressures of the Union single market, in particular through increased trade and investment flows, and resilient and sustainable value chains providing decent jobs, and transition to a digital and AI economy; | | |
| (1) f) | f) Accelerating the alignment of candidate countries and potential candidates with the Union's climate and environmental standards and supporting their implementation; | | |
| (1) g) | g) Reinforcing the effectiveness of public administration, building local capacities and investing in administrative staff in the beneficiary countries. Supporting transparency, accountability, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including through the prevention of corruption and by strengthening engagement of public authorities with civil society actors. Improving national control systems in view of accession, including as regards their powers of oversight and inquiry over the distribution of and access to public funds as well as in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; | 1.g) Reinforcing the effectiveness of public administration, building local capacities and investing in administrative staff in the beneficiary countries. Supporting transparency, accountability, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including through the prevention of corruption and by strengthening engagement of public authorities with civil society actors and local media. Improving national control systems in view of accession, including as regards their powers of oversight and inquiry over the distribution of and access to public funds as well as in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; | <p>Local media, regardless of their format (radio, print, TV), cover specific geographical areas with issues that are of importance to surrounding communities. Local media often has the trust of their audiences owing to their proximity, and is vital for countering disinformation, fostering social cohesion and can function as a watchdog. There is growing evidence that supporting local journalism is one of the most effective long-term strategies to counter disinformation. Experts widely agree that strengthening free, independent media and ensuring access to accurate information are top priorities for improving the global information environment.</p> <p>Sources: IPIE, Trends in the Global Information Environment: 2024 Expert Survey Results; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Countering Disinformation Effectively: An Evidence-Based Policy Guide (2024).</p> <p>The OECD Principles for Effective Support to Media are a key guiding framework for the design, implementation, and evaluation of the programmes supporting media freedom, public interest journalism and information integrity in partner countries. Alongside direct support to media outlets, the Principles promote system-level interventions, from encouraging legislative frameworks favorable to independent pluralistic media to unlocking additional resources, and support to the sector needs to help catalyze structural change.</p> |
| (1) ga) | new) | (2) ga) Supporting investigative journalism and independent media, including those in exile, in ensuring transparency, public oversight, and accountability, and as essential tools for exposing corruption, organized crime networks, and illicit financial flows, in line with the Sevilla Commitment; establishing cross-border protection mechanisms for journalists investigating organised crime, including legal defense funds, secure communication infrastructure, emergency and psychosocial support, and emergency relocation support; strengthening judicial | |

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| | | <i>independence and capacity to prosecute crimes against journalists.</i> | |
| (1) h) | h) Supporting territorial cohesion, cross-border cooperation across land and maritime borders with a focus on the transport connections along the trans-European transport network extended to neighbouring countries as defined in the TEN-T Regulation 2024/1679, as well as agriculture and rural development; | | |
| (1) i) | i) Moving towards full alignment of candidate countries and potential candidates with the Union Common Foreign and Security Policy, including Union restrictive measures; | | |
| (1) j) | j) Enhancing capacities for strategic communication, including to ensure public support for and understanding of Union values and the benefits and obligations of potential Union membership, while addressing foreign information manipulation and interference and disinformation; | | |
| (1) ja) | new) | <i>1.ja) Supporting freedom and pluralism of the media and the fight against foreign information manipulation and interference, supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including media, civil society and national human rights institutions;</i> | <p>EU's immediate neighbours, including the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine, face serious foreign interference. We therefore call for the funding of regional coordination hubs for countering FIMI, boosting support for investigative journalism, local media and media regulators and scaling up fact-based information to address anti-EU disinformation; underlining the need for a specific focus on election integrity assistance in the countries that are candidates for EU membership.</p> <p>The fight against disinformation requires multiple and complementary actions: provision of regular, reliable, factual and plural information, media literacy and fact-checking.</p> <p>Improving access to reliable information ensures that citizens have the necessary information to make well-informed decisions and engage in public debate. This can be done by supporting and amplifying local independent media, who are most knowledgeable on local issues and discourses: evidence suggests that support to local media is amongst the most effective measures to address disinformation over the long term. For reliable information to reach its intended audience, however, media literacy is key. Media literacy enables citizens to make critical judgments about the information they</p> |

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| | | | <p>consume using a diversity of sources, making them more resilient to disinformation.</p> <p>Together, improving media literacy and access to information ensures that citizens have access to the facts and know how to discern them from disinformation in the long term.</p> <p>Fact-checking is a third element to the protection of information integrity, by monitoring and exposing FIMI; furthermore, recognition of the importance of core funding for independent media, in particular in the EU neighbourhood and EU candidate countries, helps to prevent the dissemination of FIMI narratives. Fact-checking directly supports the endorsement and effective implementation of the Digital Services Act (DSA) by ensuring accountability and transparency in the digital space.</p> <p>(Countering Disinformation Effectively: An Evidence-Based Policy Guide, 2024)</p> |
| (1) jb) | new | <p>1.jb) Promoting and strengthening pluralism, independence, economic resilience and professionalism of a free and independent media, as well as enhancing digital and media literacy; supporting investigative journalism and fact-checking; establishing safety and rapid response mechanisms for journalists facing threats, including Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), harassment, violence and intimidation, particularly for those in exile from neighboring non-EU countries. Providing dedicated support to journalists and media operating in high-risk environments or in exile, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance.</p> | <p>The media is a key pillar and critical infrastructure the EU builds and strengthens to support its democratic and security objectives. Free and independent media, including investigative journalism and local media, are vital for safeguarding EU values such as human rights and democracy which, in turn, help countering state capture.</p> <p>Enough attention and funding must be provided for their functioning and countering Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which have become a pervasive tool for silencing critical voices, a trend that the Union is actively working to redress via the Anti-SLAPPs directive, but supporting initiatives that take action against SLAPPs would also benefit partner countries.</p> <p>Increasing violence and crimes against journalists in Europe (registered by MFRR on an yearly basis). Rates of impunity for these crimes remain high. Through investigative journalism they uncover corruption, organized crime, and other issues of public interest. This has a direct impact on the safety of all journalists working in the continent, who more often resort to self-censorship for fear of (violent) retaliation.</p> <p>This amendment is in line with Proposed amendments from previous EP resolutions (e.g. European Parliament resolution of 18 June 2025 on the Commission’s 2024 Rule of Law Report (2024/2078(INI)); 2023 and 2024 reports on candidate and potential candidate countries¹). It is also in line with the EU-signed Sevilla Commitment 29(b) that explicitly supports the media’s role in exposing illicit financial flows.</p> |

¹ (2025/2018(INI)), (2025/2019(INI)), (2025/2017(INI)), (2025/2020(INI)), (2025/2026(INI)), (2025/2021(INI)), (2025/2022(INI)),(2025/2025(INI)), (2025/2024(INI)),(2025/2023(INI))

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| 2) | Building mutually beneficial partnerships with the Union's partners, including candidate countries and potential candidates, contributing to the Union's strategic interests and promoting the Union's values and a peaceful, stable, strong and united Europe. | | |
| (2) a) | a) Promoting a strengthened partnership between the Union and the European partner countries, and among the partner countries; | | |
| (2) b) | b) Supporting the implementation of association agreements or other existing and future agreements, to support the conclusion and implementation of comprehensive partnerships, including through providing financial support against the achievement of results set out in relevant performance-based plans; | | |
| (2) c) | c) Reinforcing the rule of law, including the fight against and prevention of corruption, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by combating discrimination and promoting gender equality and the women's and girls' rights and empowerment and preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Facilitating judicial cooperation, promoting children's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities and accessibility, strengthening the rights of victims of crime and contributing to the strengthening of democracy and political stability; | 2.c) Reinforcing the rule of law, including the fight against and prevention of corruption, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by combating discrimination and promoting gender equality and the women's and girls' rights and empowerment and preventing and combating all forms of violence online and offline against women, particularly against women journalists and other public figures such as human rights defenders, to ensure their meaningful participation in public debates and preventing and combating domestic violence. Facilitating judicial cooperation, promoting children's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities and accessibility, strengthening the rights of victims of crime and contributing to the strengthening of democracy and political stability; | <p>Countering gender violence is essential to safeguarding freedom of expression, democratic participation and women's equal enjoyment of rights. Women journalists face heightened online and offline violence, legal harassment and coordinated attacks due to both their profession and gender, producing well evidenced chilling effects: women withdraw from public debate or self-censor, undermining media pluralism, information integrity and deepening gender inequalities; as documented by UNESCO. Dedicated and sustained funding is required for the implementation of tailored safety and protection measures, prevention of gender-based reprisals, and support for women's meaningful participation in public debate; in order to promote women's empowerment and address structural barriers in the media and journalism sector.</p> <p>This approach directly aligns with the Commission's Roadmap for Women's Rights. The forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, planned for adoption in March 2026, will also offer an opportunity to translate these commitments into action at the EU level. With this amendment, we want to ensure that such commitments also extend beyond EU borders and benefit partner countries.</p> |
| (2) d) | d) Fostering good neighbourly relations, reconciliation, and the settlement of disputes, and promoting peace, stability, security. | | |

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| (2) e) | e) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations; supporting peace, stability and conflict prevention. | e) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations; supporting peace, stability and conflict prevention including by supporting independent local media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools; by investing in the safety, resilience, infrastructural, operational and technical capacities necessary for them to provide public-interest information; | |
| (2) ea) | new) | (2) ea) Supporting regional and global initiatives that invest in the resilience of information ecosystems, information integrity, including independent media, and their infrastructural, technological and operational resilience, as a key pillar to promote peace, and collective as well as human security | |
| (2) f) | f) Increasing stability and security; stepping-up cooperation with justice and law enforcement institutions on counter-terrorism, transnational organised crime, terrorist and organised crime financing and anti-money laundering, the fight against radicalisation and violent extremism, cyberthreats, the fight against impunity, corruption; | | |
| (2) g) | g) Fostering regional economic cooperation and, where appropriate, a positive appreciation of integration with the Union and reducing strategic dependencies of the Union and of partner countries, including on energy, critical raw materials and inputs, and health security; | | |
| (2) h) | h) Supporting sustainable and inclusive growth, private sector engagement, trade, and investments in key infrastructure as well as research and innovation; advancing the digital transition to unlock societal and economic opportunities both within private and public sector; fostering skills development and decent jobs | | |
| (2) i) | i) Promoting social and cultural inclusion across borders, preserving and promoting cultural and natural heritage, offering support to cultural and creative sectors and industries, and sport; | i) Promoting social and cultural inclusion cohesion across borders, preserving and promoting cultural and natural heritage, offering support to cultural and creative sectors and industries, media , and sport; | Culture, media, and sports jointly foster solidarity, social cohesion, mutual understanding, and help to break stereotypes. Independent media, including local/community media, can highlight positive stories, be a safe platform for discourse, and promote inclusion, including through regional exchanges and collaboration. (see: Understanding the Role of Local Media in Promoting Social Cohesion in Ukraine: What Method? What Results?) Journalism is fundamental to building democratic societies, driving economic development, and ensuring public accountability (source: Journalism for Development (Stiglitz, Schiffrin, and Groves, 2024)) |

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| (2) j) | j) Fostering the use of the Union's single currency for trade, financial services and investment within the region and with respect to the Union; | | |
| (2) k) | k) Contributing to the resilience of partner countries, supporting and reinforcing actions addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, fragility challenges and addressing reconstruction needs as well as balance of payment crises; | | |
| (2) l) | l) Supporting Union competitiveness and flexibly responding to economic challenges and opportunities | | |
| (2) m) | m) Developing the digital economy and society with a particular focus on supporting the rollout of secure and trusted digital infrastructure, developing data and AI economies through support for the setting-up of AI Factories and shaping AI to uphold democratic values and protect cultural diversity, promoting relevant Digital Public Infrastructure and eGovernance solutions such as privacy-preserving digital identity frameworks, strengthening cybersecurity and cyber defence capabilities; | (2) m) Developing the digital economy and society with a particular focus on supporting the rollout of secure and trusted digital infrastructure that is compliant with human rights international law , developing data and AI economies through support for the setting-up of AI Factories and shaping human rights based AI to uphold democratic values and protect cultural diversity, promoting relevant Digital Public Infrastructure and eGovernance solutions such as privacy-preserving digital identity frameworks, strengthening cybersecurity and cyber defence capabilities; | Digital infrastructures and AI technology should developed in a manner that they respect international human rights law and embed safety by design principles, in alignment with international commitments such as the United Nations Global Digital Compact (Objective 3, commitment 22); strengthening accountability and coherence with EU values, to ensure users are safeguarded against violations, discrimination and abuse across the digital ecosystem. |
| (2) ma) | new) | (2) ma) Accelerating the deployment of accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital connectivity, including satellite connectivity, promoting a human rights based and secure digital economy and global governance; and ensuring artificial intelligence systems and tools work in the public interest and rely on reliable fact-based information; | |
| (2) n) | n) Fostering energy transition and promoting energy security; investing in energy connectivity and renewable energies; promoting the use of clean energy sources in industry and transport; promoting the integration of Union's value chain; | | |
| (2) o) | o) Reinforcing environmental protection, increasing resilience to climate change, accelerating the shift towards a climate neutral, positive biodiversity inclusive, sustainable green, blue and circular economy, strengthening the fight against environmental crime | | |

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| (2) p) | p) Strengthening economic and social development and inclusion, with particular attention to women, children and, youth, including through preventing brain drain, supporting vulnerable communities, promoting equality, cultural inclusion, quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and supporting employment policies, labour rights and effective social protection systems; | | |
| (2) q) | q) Strengthening partnerships on well-managed and safe migration and mobility via structured migration discussions and, where applicable, and provided that conditions for well-managed and secure mobility are in place, developing and support the implementation of existing visa-free regimes, visa liberalisation dialogues and bilateral or regional agreements and arrangements with partner countries. | | |
| (2) r) | r) Fostering the establishment of people-to-people partnerships based on common interests and promoting collaboration on education, culture, sport , research and innovation as well as the mutually beneficial mobility of people; | | |
| (2) s) | s) Empowering civil society and strengthening its capacity on the monitoring of the implementation of reforms, supporting the creation of an enabling environment for civil society organisations, promoting and strengthening pluralism, independence and professionalism of a free and independent media, as well as enhancing digital and media literacy; | s) Empowering civil society and strengthening its capacity on the monitoring of the implementation of reforms, supporting the creation of an enabling environment for civil society organisations and independent media , promoting and strengthening pluralism, independence, economic resilience and professionalism of a free and independent media, as well as enhancing digital and media literacy; | Editorial independence is strongly related to financial independence. Economic resilience of the media is a key element, noted by RSF annual report in 2025 where all countries lost ranking because of the degradation of the economic resilience of the media in each country. https://rsf.org/en/rsf-world-press-freedom-index-2025-economic-fragility-leading-threat-press-freedom The 193 Member States of UNESCO in November 2021 endorsed the principles of the Windhoek+30 Declaration: Information as a Public Good , which reaffirms the value of free, pluralistic, and independent media, and calls attention to the urgent importance of securing economic viability for news, transparency of internet companies, and increasing media and information competencies amongst the public. |
| (2) t) | t) Helping to mitigate challenges posed by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and attempts to destabilise partner countries, fight disinformation, hybrid threats, and foreign information manipulation and interference, in particular by Russia, against partner countries' sovereignty, democratic processes | t) Helping to mitigate challenges posed by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and attempts to destabilise partner countries, fight disinformation, hybrid threats, and foreign information manipulation and interference, in particular by Russia, against partner countries' sovereignty, democratic processes and institutions including the independence and freedom of the media , as well as against the Union and its values. | Free, independent and pluralistic media as essential to peace, collective security and information integrity. As highlighted in a recent OSCE report , media freedom improves human security and strengthens international and national peace. In particular, strong independent media reduce the risk of international armed conflict. |

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| | and institutions, as well as against the Union and its values. | | <p>Strengthening the resilience of information spaces against manipulation by authoritarian actors is crucial for the effectiveness of defense efforts, for stability in areas of interest to the EU and for Europe's collective security. As demonstrated by the central role played by independent media in Moldova in countering Russian interference and hybrid warfare during the 2024 presidential election and 2025 legislative elections, support for independent media must occupy a central place in the arsenal of prevention and response deployed by the EU in promoting stability</p> <p>By strengthening journalist safety, media sustainability and resilient information ecosystems, they address growing threats to democracy and reinforce the enabling conditions required for independent journalism to operate, including in high-risk and exile contexts.</p> |
| (2) u) | u) Strengthening awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union in partner countries through strategic communication. | | |
| (3) | Supporting Ukraine in light of the consequences of Russia's war of aggression | | |
| (3) a) | a) Helping maintaining the macro-financial stability of Ukraine and easing its external and internal financing constraints to ensure the continued functioning of the Ukrainian state; | | |
| (3) b) | b) Supporting the recovery, reconstruction and modernisation of Ukraine, in line with its accession path, by addressing the social, economic, security and environmental consequences of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine and contributing to the rebuilding of vital infrastructure, including energy, transport and digital infrastructure, thereby contributing to social cohesion, resilience and to the post-war recovery of free, culturally vibrant Ukrainian society, including by supporting culture and cultural heritage and by creating the social and economic conditions for internally displaced persons and persons under temporary protection to go back to Ukraine once conditions allow,, and reintegrating the veteran population. | | |
| (3) c) | c) Supporting accountability efforts in the context of Russia's war of aggression, including assistance to investigation and prosecution of international crimes committed in and against Ukraine, notably in relation to | | |

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| | the crime of aggression, and to transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, including the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. | | |
| Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf | | | |
| (1) | Enhancing strategic partnerships at regional and country level | | |
| (1) a) | a) Deepening partnerships with the Middle East, North Africa and Gulf regions through a stronger political commitment and with a view to achieving a common space of peace, prosperity and stability in the Mediterranean region; | | |
| (1) b) | b) Developing mutually beneficial tailored partnerships, including through formal bilateral agreements and bilateral and regional dialogues, based on Union's leverage and local ownership, contributing to the Union's strategic interests, and promoting the Union's values; | | |
| (1) c) | c) Support the implementation of association agreements or other existing and future agreements and jointly agreed documents with the Southern Neighbourhood countries as listed in Annex I; | | |
| (1) d) | d) Strengthening awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union in partner countries through strategic communication. | | |
| (2) | Strengthening security, peace, resilience, reconstruction and preparedness | | |
| (2) a) | a) Supporting and promoting peace, stability, security, crisis response, conflict prevention, stabilization, mediation, political transition and reconciliation efforts; | a) Supporting and promoting peace, stability, security, crisis response, conflict prevention, dialogue , stabilization, mediation, political transition and reconciliation efforts | Trusted to promote dialogue, media provides a platform for diverse voices and fosters a culture of critical thinking and public debate, acting as a catalyst for inclusive recovery and sustainable development. It lays the groundwork for a resilient, democratic, and prosperous future. Source: Access to reliable information is the way to fight disinformation in Syria (Free Press Unlimited) |

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| | | | Journalism is fundamental to building democratic societies, driving economic development, and ensuring public accountability (source: Journalism for Development (Stiglitz, Schiffrin, and Groves, 2024)) |
| (2) aa) | new) | (2) aa) <i>Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations, including by supporting independent local media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools; by investing in the safety, resilience, infrastructural, operational and technical capacities necessary for them to provide public-interest information;</i> | |
| (2) b) | b) Supporting the needs related to socio-economic recovery, rehabilitation and post-conflict reconstruction | | |
| (2) c) | c) Contributing to the resilience of partner countries, supporting and reinforcing actions addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, fragility challenges and addressing reconstruction needs as well as balance of payment crises; | | |
| (2) ca) | new) | (2) ca) <i>Supporting regional and global initiatives that invest in the resilience of information ecosystems, information integrity, including independent media, and their infrastructural, technological and operational resilience, as a key pillar to promote peace, and collective as well as human security</i> | |
| (2) d) | d) Support security in areas of common interest, such as health security, maritime security, fight against organised crime counter-terrorism, and cyber security and cyber capacity-building; | d) Support security in areas of common interest, such as human security , health security, maritime security, fight against organised crime counter-terrorism, and cyber security and cyber capacity-building; | Media are critical to human security by acting as a watchdog that exposes rights violations, providing essential, real-time information during crises, and fostering democratic accountability. By highlighting marginalized voices and acting as a bridge builder in conflicts, they facilitate social cohesion, safety, and informed public discourse, as highlighted by OSCE's leaders . |
| (2) e) | e) Stepping-up cooperation on terrorist and organised crime financing and anti-money laundering, judicial cooperation, the fight against radicalisation and violent extremism, hybrid and cyber threats, the fight against impunity, corruption, organised crime and law enforcement; | e) Stepping-up cooperation on terrorist and organised crime financing and anti-money laundering, judicial cooperation, the fight against radicalisation and violent extremism, hybrid and cyber threats, the fight against impunity including for crimes against journalists , corruption, organised crime and law enforcement; | Journalists are often the last pillar of accountability, where other pillars are not functioning. Through investigative journalism they uncover corruption, organized crime, and other issues of public interest. The MENA region is among the regions with the highest rates of impunity for crimes against journalists. This has a direct impact on the safety of all journalists working in the region, who more often resort to self-censorship for fear of (violent) retaliation. (UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, 2024) |

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| (2) f) | f) Contributing to preventing the circumvention of Union restrictive measures. | | |
| (3) | Promoting and protecting democracy, the rule of law, human rights, good governance, human development and people to people relations | 3) Promoting and protecting democracy, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, information integrity , good governance, human development and people to people relations. | <p>Though the European Union does not have a single, fixed legal definition of information integrity, it approaches it as an evolving concept within its broader democratic framework, the “European Shield of Democracy.”</p> <p>Rather than limiting itself to technical cybersecurity, the EU's approach defines information integrity as the protection of a healthy information ecosystem based on: accuracy (information must be truthful and factual), consistency (data must not be maliciously contradictory), reliability (sources and dissemination processes must be trustworthy), operability. In the European Democracy Shield, ensuring the integrity of information means combating threats that pollute public debate, including: FIMI (Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference) and Disinformation and hate speech (Information integrity online and the European democracy shield)</p> <p>According to OECD - Recommendation of the Council on Information Integrity: “ access to high-quality and public interest media and journalism plays a critical role in democracies and for information integrity;”</p> |
| (3) a) | a) Strengthening public institutions and economic/democratic governance systems, including through oversight, enforcement, and the prevention of and fight against corruption and foreign interference; supporting effectiveness of public finances, transparency and accountability; | 3a) Strengthening public institutions and economic/democratic governance systems, including through oversight by civil society and independent media , enforcement, and the prevention of and fight against corruption and foreign interference; supporting effectiveness of public finances, transparency and accountability; | Investigative journalism exposes malpractice, corruption, human rights violations and environmental crimes fulfilling the media's watchdog role in society. The EU-signed Sevilla Commitment 29(b) explicitly supports the media's role in exposing illicit financial flows |
| (3) aa) | new) | (2) ea) Supporting investigative journalism and independent media, including those in exile, in ensuring transparency, public oversight, and accountability, and as essential tools for exposing corruption, organized crime networks, and illicit financial flows, in line with the Sevilla Commitment; establishing cross-border protection mechanisms for journalists investigating organised crime, including legal defense funds, secure communication infrastructure, emergency and psychosocial support, and emergency relocation support; strengthening judicial independence and capacity to prosecute crimes against journalists. | |
| (3) b) | b) Safeguarding the space for civil society, civic and non-state actors and independent media; supporting the fight against foreign information manipulation and | 3) b) Safeguarding the space for civil society, civic and non-state actors and independent media; supporting the fight against foreign information manipulation and interference, through investment in media | The fight against disinformation requires multiple and complementary actions: provision of regular, reliable, factual and plural information, media literacy and fact-checking. To help counter foreign information |

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| | interference, supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including national human rights institutions; | pluralism, local media and support to factchecking organisations; supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including national human rights institutions; | manipulation and interference, it is important to ensure that citizens have as much access as possible to high-quality and plural information, including through local media. (Countering Disinformation Effectively: An Evidence-Based Policy Guide , 2024) |
| (3) c) | c) Protecting and promoting human rights, gender equality, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, and fighting against child labour and discrimination on any ground | 3) c) Protecting and promoting human rights, gender equality, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities and fighting against child labour and discrimination on any ground; preventing and combating all forms of violence online and offline against women, particularly against women journalists and other public figures such as human rights defenders, to ensure their meaningful participation in public debates. | <p>Countering gender violence is essential to safeguarding freedom of expression, democratic participation and women's equal enjoyment of rights. Women journalists face heightened online and offline violence, legal harassment and coordinated attacks due to both their profession and gender, producing well evidenced chilling effects: women withdraw from public debate or self-censor, undermining media pluralism, information integrity and deepening gender inequalities; as documented by UNESCO. Dedicated and sustained funding is required for the implementation of tailored safety and protection measures, prevention of gender-based reprisals, and support for women's meaningful participation in public debate; in order to promote women's empowerment and address structural barriers in the media and journalism sector.</p> <p>This approach directly aligns with the Commission's Roadmap for Women's Rights. The forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, planned for adoption in March 2026, will also offer an opportunity to translate these commitments into action at the EU level. With this amendment, we want to ensure that such commitments also extend beyond EU borders and benefit partner countries.</p> |
| (3) ca) | <i>new</i> | 3ca) Promoting, protecting and supporting freedom of expression and information integrity by resourcing free, independent, and pluralistic media and supporting their economic resilience; enhancing their independence and their capacity; protecting the safety and security of journalists and media organisations especially in high risk and exile environments; and promoting enabling environments required to sustain independent journalism and healthy information ecosystems, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance. | <p>The region faces acute journalist safety challenges, both in the physical and digital world requiring rapid-response mechanisms and psychosocial support. Legal protection for sources is critical in authoritarian contexts. Online harassment, digital surveillance and targeted threats disproportionately affect women and minority voices, shrinking civic space and deterring participation in public life. Protecting and enabling these voices is essential to safeguarding freedom of expression and press.</p> <p>The media is a key pillar and critical infrastructure the EU builds and strengthens to support its democratic and security objectives. Free and independent media, including investigative journalism and local media, are vital for safeguarding EU values such as human rights and democracy which, in turn, help countering state capture. Enough attention and funding must be provided for their functioning and countering Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which have become a pervasive tool for silencing critical voices, a trend that the Union is actively working to redress via the Anti-SLAPPs directive, but supporting initiatives that take action</p> |

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| | | | <p>against SLAPPs would also benefit partner countries.</p> <p>Increasing violence and crimes against journalists in Europe (registered by MFRR on an yearly basis). Rates of impunity for these crimes remain high. Through investigative journalism they uncover corruption, organized crime, and other issues of public interest. This has a direct impact on the safety of all journalists working in the continent, who more often resort to self-censorship for fear of (violent) retaliation.</p> <p>This amendment is in line with the EU-signed Sevilla Commitment 29(b) that explicitly supports the media's role in exposing illicit financial flows.</p> |
| (3) d) | d) Enhancing quality and relevance of education, health and access to health products and social protection systems; fostering universal health coverage | | |
| (3) e) | e) Fostering the establishment of people-to-people partnerships based on common interests and strengthening skills development through cooperation in the fields of education, youth, research and innovation; | | |
| (3) f) | f) Empowering young people, creating decent jobs, supporting the creation of a common space for learning, connecting skills, vocational education and training, higher education, research and innovation; | | |
| (3) g) | g) Promoting mutual understanding through culture, media, sports and tourism; | | We support the inclusion of media in the original proposal by the commission, therefore, amendments have been suggested in other regions where media was missing. |
| (3) h) | h) Promoting the role of culture and intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity in all its forms, mobility, and reinforcing cooperation on safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage. | | |
| (4) | Supporting inclusive and sustainable growth, trade, and investments in key infrastructure. | | |
| (4) a) | a) Supporting Union trade policy and, trade and investment agreements and their implementation | | |

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| (4) b) | b) Creating conditions for the participation of EU companies in the regional markets through the removal of barriers and de-risking through support for regulatory changes; | | |
| (4) c) | c) Promoting business and investment opportunities (including for companies from the European Union), private sector development regulatory convergence with Union's standards, economic integration, as well as local and regional sustainable value chains and diversification; | | |
| (4) d) | d) Improving the region's productive and export capacity of critical raw materials and inputs | | |
| (4) e) | e) Advancing the digital transition to unlock societal and economic opportunities both within private and public sector. Advancing secure and trusted digital infrastructures to underpin future developments of key economic and critical sectors. Developing data and AI economies, including by supporting AI innovation ecosystems. Supporting actions to close the digital divide and to ensure accessible, affordable, inclusive, and secure digital connectivity solutions | 4e) Advancing the digital transition to unlock societal and economic opportunities both within private and public sector. Advancing secure and trusted human rights respecting digital infrastructures to underpin future developments of key economic and critical sectors. Developing data and AI economies, including by supporting human rights and international law compliant and locally rooted AI innovation ecosystems, that serve the public interest . Supporting actions close to the digital divide and to ensure accessible, affordable, inclusive and secure digital connectivity solutions. | <p>The AI-age has strongly affected the region, as AI systems are reproducing and enforcing Western biases and do not function correctly for Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and other languages. Support for locally rooted solutions helps mitigate the negative effects.</p> <p>Digital infrastructures should developed in a manner that they respect international human rights law and embed safety by design principles, in alignment with international commitments such as the United Nations Global Digital Compact (Objective 3, commitment 22); strengthening accountability and coherence with EU values, to ensure users are safeguarded against violations, discrimination and abuse across the digital ecosystem.</p> |
| (4) ea) | new) | (4) ea) Accelerating the deployment of accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital connectivity, including satellite connectivity, promoting a human rights based and secure digital economy and global governance; and ensuring artificial intelligence systems and tools work in the public interest and rely on reliable fact-based information; | |
| (4) f) | f) Fostering the use of the Union's single currency for trade, financial services and investment within the region and with respect to the Union; | | |
| (4) g) | g) Strengthening sustainable road and maritime transport and ports; promoting smart and sustainable mobility, supporting the uptake of sustainable transport fuels; | | |

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| (4) h) | h) Fostering energy transition and promoting energy security; investing in energy connectivity and renewable energies; promoting the integration of Union's value chain with resilient clean tech industrial chains of partner countries; | | |
| (4) i) | i) Supporting Union competitiveness and stability, and flexibly responding to economic challenges and opportunities. | | |
| (5) | Promoting healthy eco-systems and addressing climate change. | | |
| (5) a) | a) Enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation capacity; helping to promote climate-proof investments; | 5a) Enhancing climate change adaptation and mitigation capacity including by enhancing reporting and investigation on the consequences of climate change and solutions to mitigate or reverse the changes ; helping to promote climate-proof investments; | <p>Trust in scientific knowledge and factual information about the causes and impacts of climate change is the cornerstone of effective climate action. The weakening of public interest media fuels disbelief and leaves room for misinformation. The European Commission itself has on numerous occasions referenced the importance of media pluralism and resilience of independent media as one of the antidotes to climate misinformation.</p> <p>Since there is no frontiers to information, and disinformation is spreading and produces effects globally, the EU should contribute to prevent climate disinformation beyond its borders, taking example on what the EC does within the EU: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-disinformation_en</p> |
| (5) b) | b) Developing sustainable green and blue economy; supporting the transition to low-emissions, resource efficient and circular economic models and promoting the development of sustainable production and value chains, supporting green hydrogen projects; | | |
| (5) c) | c) Ensuring the protection and conservation of the environment and biodiversity and ensuring the restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems, including water systems, land, forests and the ocean. Promoting the fight against pollution biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries, and transition to sustainable food systems, focusing on the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus approach. Promoting nature-based solutions, in particular for sustainable infrastructure and the development of green and smart cities. | | |

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| (6) | Enhancing cooperation on all aspects of migration, mobility and forced displacement | | |
| (6) a) | a) Enhancing cooperation on all aspects of migration and forced displacement including through the EU agencies; strengthening local and international partnerships on migration and forced displacement along key migratory routes; | | |
| (6) b) | b) Strengthening all aspects of migration and asylum governance; enhancing border management, including quality of travel documents and visa systems; strengthening the fight against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings and fostering cooperation on safe, dignified and, sustainable returns, readmission and reintegration of migrants; as well as addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement | | |
| (6) c) | c) Supporting a comprehensive approach to and implementation of legal migration and mobility, including through mutually beneficial Talent Partnerships and exchanges, respecting the competences of the Member States; | | |
| (6) d) | d) Contributing to the provision of international protection, including access to resettlement and complementary pathways, and support to refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, host communities, and to countries hosting significant refugee or displaced populations. | | |
| Annex II.C – Sub-Saharan Africa | | | |
| (1) | Supporting inclusive and sustainable growth, promoting connectivity, trade, and decent jobs | | |
| (1) a) | a) Supporting sustainable, safe, secure and resilient infrastructure and connectivity, including strengthening sustainable and safe road, rail, air and maritime transport, and promoting smart, inclusive and sustainable mobility, and the uptake of sustainable transport fuels; | | |

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| (1) b) | b) Strengthening the digital and space economy, supporting actions to close the digital divide, advancing secure and trusted digital infrastructures, promoting human-centric digital governance, including the development of modern data management and protection systems for safe data flows, developing data and AI economies, including by supporting AI innovation ecosystems; supporting cybersecurity and cyber capacity-building; | (1) b) Strengthening the digital and space economy, supporting actions to close the digital divide, advancing secure and trusted digital and media infrastructures, promoting human-centric digital governance in line with international human rights law , including the development of modern data management and protection systems for safe data flows, developing data and AI economies, including by supporting AI innovation ecosystems; supporting cybersecurity and cyber capacity-building; | Replacing “human-centric digital governance” with “digital governance grounded in international human rights law” (under amendment 1.b)) ensures alignment with international commitments such as the United Nations Global Digital Compact (Objective 3, commitment 22); strengthening accountability and coherence with EU values, and safeguards users against violations, discrimination and abuse across the digital ecosystem. |
| (1) c) | c) Fostering energy transition and promoting energy security; investing in energy connectivity and renewable energies; promoting the use of clean energy sources in industry and transport; fostering energy access and energy efficiency; | (1) c) Fostering energy transition and promoting energy security; investing in energy connectivity and renewable energies; promoting the use of clean energy sources in sectors such as industry and transport; digital technology and information infrastructures; fostering energy access and energy efficiency for key infrastructures such as health, education and communication and media; | Africa’s electric power sector is characterized by massive untapped renewable potential, significant infrastructure deficits, and a drive toward universal access by 2030, with 600 million people still lacking electricity in 2025. While 25% of the continent's electricity is generated from clean sources, fossil fuels (primarily gas) dominate production, especially in North Africa. Information infrastructures such as the media is reliant on energy efficiency, including in remote areas, and need support to access and invest in renewable energy sources |
| (1) d) | d) Promoting trade, business and investment opportunities (including for companies from the European Union), private sector development regulatory convergence with Union’s standards, economic integration, diversification of supply chains, and development of local and regional sustainable value chains | | |
| (1) e) | e) Supporting Union trade policy and trade agreements and their implementation; | | |
| (1) f) | f) Improving the region's capacity to sustainably produce and export critical raw materials and inputs; | | |
| (1) g) | g) Promoting private sector development and Improving the business environment to attract investments and foster decent job creation; | 1) g) Promoting private sector development and improving the business environment to attract investments including through independent information and investigative media holding stakeholders accountable against corruption and economic disinformation, and foster decent job creation; | The EU should support and contribute to the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption which provides a framework which State Parties can follow to combat corruption. Article 12 of the Convention calls upon governments to fully engage the Civil Society and Media in the fight against corruption. Recognizing the role that Media has in educating, informing, and acting as watch dogs and being whistleblowers, it is paramount that Media is equipped with right information on how they can engage State Parties to the Convention. https://au.int/fr/node/42279 |

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| (1) h) | h) Fostering skills development and decent jobs, as well as research and innovation | | |
| (1) i) | i) Supporting Union competitiveness and flexibly responding to economic challenges and opportunities; | | |
| (1) j) | j) Fostering the use of the Union's single currency for trade, financial services and investment within the region and with respect to the Union. | | |
| (1) ja) | <i>new</i> | (new) (1) ja) Accelerating the deployment of accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital connectivity, including satellite connectivity, promoting a human rights based-centric, and secure digital economy and global governance; and ensuring artificial intelligence systems and tools work in the public interest and rely on reliable fact- based information; | <p>On one hand, connectivity expanded in Africa in 2025. Satellite Internet, like Starlink, filled gaps that terrestrial networks could not, in rural areas, conflict zones, and places where fibre cuts or poor coverage made "reliable Internet" a joke. For freelancers, journalists, aid workers, and small businesses, these technologies kept people online when they would otherwise be cut off entirely.</p> <p>On the other hand, the same year reminded us that access is never neutral. Governments across Africa continued to treat the Internet as a switch they could flip at any time — during elections, protests, exams, or conflict.</p> <p>While Satellite Internet, like starlink promises resilience, it also introduces new security risks, regulatory tensions, and uncomfortable questions about who controls access when states decide their people should not have it.</p> |
| (2) | Fighting climate change, protecting the environment and biodiversity | | |
| (2) a) | a) Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction, with particular attention to the most vulnerable countries such as least developed countries and small island developing states | 2) a) Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction, with particular attention to populations in the most vulnerable countries such as least developed countries and small island developing states, who need reliable and fact-based information to hold stakeholders accountable and counter climate change disinformation; | <p>Trust in scientific knowledge and factual information about the causes and impacts of climate change is the cornerstone of effective climate action. The weakening of public interest media fuels disbelief and leaves room for misinformation. The European Commission itself has on numerous occasions referenced the importance of media pluralism and resilience of independent media as one of the antidotes to climate misinformation.</p> <p>Since there is no frontiers to information, and disinformation is spreading and produces effects globally, the EU should contribute to prevent climate disinformation beyond its borders, taking example on what the EC does within the EU: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-disinformation_en</p> |

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| (2) b) | b) Fostering pollution prevention and reduction, and ensuring the protection and preservation of the environment and biodiversity as well as the restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems, including water systems, land, forests and the ocean | | |
| (2) c) | c) Promoting nature-based solutions for sustainable infrastructure and cities, sustainable green, blue and circular economy, including bioeconomy | | |
| (2) d) | d) Supporting sustainable and resilient agriculture, including agroforestry, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture. | | |
| (3) | Enhancing cooperation on all aspects of migration, mobility and forced displacement | | |
| (3) a) | a) Addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement | | |
| (3) b) | b) Strengthening migration governance and management, enhancing border management, the quality of travel documents and visa systems, fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and fostering cooperation on safe, dignified and sustainable returns, readmission and reintegration of irregular migrants | | |
| (3) c) | c) Supporting and Promoting the use of legal channels of migration and mobility and encouraging diasporas' contributions to the development of the countries of origin; | | |
| (3) d) | d) Supporting asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced and stateless people, as well as their host communities, and promoting their access to protection and durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and access to resettlement as well as complementary pathways | 3) d) Supporting asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced and stateless people, as well as their host communities including through access to fact-based and reliable information produced locally , and promoting their access to protection and durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and access to resettlement as well as complementary pathways. | Information is aid, it enables everyone affected by conflict to make life-saving decisions. The amendment follows the rationale of what the EU agreed in the 2024 United Nations Pact for the Future 's commitment 35(f) " <i>Respect and protect journalists, media professionals and associated personnel working in situations of armed conflict</i> ", since supporting journalists and local independent media in conflict and humanitarian settings is vital, particularly when international media are unable to operate due to security risks and access restrictions. For the international community, these local voices serve as critical sources of reliable, |

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| | | | <p>on-the-ground information, shedding light on the humanitarian needs, security risks, human rights violations, and realities faced by the civilians. Their reporting enables humanitarian organizations, donors, and policymakers to make informed decisions and mobilize responses; noting that without their reporting, many crises remain invisible.</p> <p>Additionally, journalists in conflict and humanitarian settings play an equally important role within their own communities. They provide life-saving information on safety and access to aid, while also helping to counter misinformation and propaganda. Taking into account the local societal dynamics, journalists in conflict and humanitarian settings serve as a bridge between fragmented or displaced communities by sharing stories, amplifying marginalized voices, and promoting solidarity.</p> |
| (4) | Promoting human development and gender equality | | |
| (4) a) | a) Supporting greater access to and improved quality of education, healthcare services and health products and supporting food and nutrition security, and promoting access to climate resilient and safe water supply, sanitation and waste services | | |
| (4) b) | b) Fostering social inclusion, social protection, universal health coverage and the fight against inequalities, with a focus on the most vulnerable | <p>(4) b) Fostering social inclusion, social protection, universal health coverage and the fight against inequalities, with a focus on the most vulnerable by preventing and combatting health threats, such as pandemics and anti-microbial resistance, strengthening health systems and health equity, ensuring social inclusion through access to reliable and fact-based health information, promoting universal health coverage, and sexual and reproductive health and rights;</p> | <p>WHO has alerted on the importance of fact-based information for public health: https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/disinformation-and-public-health</p> <p>Strengthen access to reliable, fact-based health information as no crisis—whether health, climate, economic, political, or humanitarian—can be addressed without reliable information at its core.</p> |
| (4) c) | c) Promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls, preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence protecting rights of persons with disabilities, of young people and of children, and fighting child labour | <p>(4) c) Promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls, enhancing their representation in the media, preventing and combating all forms of violence online and offline against women, particularly against women journalists and other public figures such as human rights defenders, to ensure their meaningful participation in public debates, and preventing and combating domestic violence, protecting rights of persons with disabilities and marginalised communities, enhancing their representation in the media, protecting the rights of young people and of children, and fighting child labour;</p> | <p>Countering gender violence is essential to safeguarding freedom of expression, democratic participation and women’s equal enjoyment of rights. Women journalists face heightened online and offline violence, legal harassment and coordinated attacks due to both their profession and gender, producing well evidenced chilling effects: women withdraw from public debate or self-censor, undermining media pluralism, information integrity and deepening gender inequalities; as documented by UNESCO. Dedicated and sustained funding is required for the implementation of tailored safety and protection measures, prevention of gender-based reprisals, and support for women’s meaningful participation in public debate; in order to promote</p> |

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| | | | <p>women's empowerment and address structural barriers in the media and journalism sector.</p> <p>This approach directly aligns with the Commission's Roadmap for Women's Rights. The forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, planned for adoption in March 2026, will also offer an opportunity to translate these commitments into action at the EU level. With this amendment, we want to ensure that such commitments also extend beyond EU borders and benefit partner countries.</p> |
| (4) d) | d) Contributing to the resilience of partner countries, Supporting and reinforcing actions addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, fragility challenges and addressing reconstruction needs as well as balance of payment crises | | |
| (5) | Promoting and protecting democracy, rule of law, human rights and good governance | | |
| (5) a) | a) Protecting and promoting human rights, with specific attention to protect the most vulnerable, and democracy, safeguarding the space for civil society organisations and supporting freedom and pluralism of the media | <p>(5)(a) Protecting and promoting human rights, with specific attention to protect the most vulnerable, such as women and young people, and democracy, safeguarding the space for civil society organisations and supporting freedom, resilience, and pluralism of the media establishing safety and rapid response mechanisms for (women) journalists facing threats, violence, harassment and intimidation online and offline, particularly including those in exile. Providing dedicated support to journalists and media operating in high-risk environments or in exile, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance.</p> | <p>The region's media require support, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance. Given economic and environmental challenges facing the region, investigative journalism, especially transnational networks/projects exposing malpractice, corruption and environmental crimes are essential and require targeted support.</p> |
| (5) b) | b) Supporting the rule of law and good governance, including transparency, accountability, institutional oversight, law enforcement, as well as civic space, and the prevention of and fight against corruption, and illegal trafficking, including illicit financial flows; | | |
| (5) ba) | new) | <p>(5) ea) Supporting investigative journalism and independent media, including those in exile, in ensuring transparency, public oversight, and accountability, and as essential tools for exposing corruption, organized crime networks, and illicit financial flows, in line with the Sevilla Commitment; establishing cross-border protection mechanisms for journalists investigating organised crime, including legal defense funds, secure communication infrastructure, emergency and psychosocial support, and emergency relocation support; strengthening judicial</p> | |

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| | | <i>independence and capacity to prosecute crimes against journalists.</i> | |
| (5) c) | c) Strengthening the respect of human rights and international law, with specific attention to protect the most vulnerable; | | |
| (5) d) | Promoting respect for the principles of equality and non-discrimination. | | |
| (5) da) | <i>new</i> | (new) (5) da) Supporting and ensuring engagement with civil society organisations, freedom of the media, and empowerment of young people in all policy areas and institutional processes; | The European Union is strengthening its partnership with Africa by prioritizing youth empowerment through the " Youth Action Plan " and " Global Gateway ", aiming to support education, employment, and digital skills. Key initiatives like the €50 million " Africa-Europe Youth Academy " (AEYA) and " Youth Mobility for Africa " focus on leadership, entrepreneurship, and academic exchanges. These investments should come hand in hand with an informed youth by a free press, able to express their voice and concerns in the policy and institutional processes they are requested to participate in. |
| (5) db) | <i>new</i> | (new) (5) db) Promoting, protecting and supporting freedom of expression and information integrity by resourcing free, independent, and pluralistic media and supporting their economic resilience; enhancing their independence and their capacity; protecting the safety and security of journalists and media organisations especially in high risk and exile environments; and promoting enabling environments required to sustain independent journalism and healthy information ecosystems, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance; | |
| (5) dc) | <i>new</i> | (new) (5) dc) Supporting freedom and pluralism of the media and the fight against foreign information manipulation and interference, supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including media, civil society and national human rights institutions; | |
| (5) dd) | <i>new</i> | (new) (5) dd) Promoting mutual understanding through culture, media, sports and regional exchanges; | Culture, media, and sports jointly foster solidarity, social cohesion, mutual understanding, and help to break stereotypes. Independent media, including local/community media, can highlight positive stories, be a safe platform for discourse, and promote inclusion, including |

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| | | | through regional exchanges and collaboration.(see: Understanding the Role of Local Media in Promoting Social Cohesion in Ukraine: What Method? What Results?) Journalism is fundamental to building democratic societies, driving economic development, and ensuring public accountability (source: Journalism for Development (Stiglitz, Schiffrin, and Groves, 2024) |
| (6) | Contributing to stability, peace and security | | |
| (6) a) | a) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations; | 6) a) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations, including by supporting independent local media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools; | <p>During emergencies and crises, the media's agenda needs to still be the aspiration to produce verifiable information and informed debate in the public interest, conveying not only independent and reliable information for citizens to make informed decisions, but also what they have the right to know.</p> <p>Media in Crisis Preparedness and Response (UNESCO) By ensuring that voices and concerns are expressed in a non-confrontational and professional way, media contribute to mitigate inter-community tensions and to prevent (further escalation of) political and security crises. Professional, rigorous and independent media report on exactions based on facts and avoid the spread of hate-speech or disinformation which often spark or worsen crises.</p> |
| (6) b) | b) Supporting peace, mediation, stability and conflict prevention; | (6) b) Supporting peace, mediation, stability and conflict prevention including through local media as safe places for dialogue and reconciliation; | <p>The relationship between the media and reconciliation is a fundamental pillar of transitional justice and social cohesion after conflict or historical injustice. The media acts as a catalyst for dialogue and a bridge between communities. While it can be a tool for propaganda and hatred, professional and rigorous media contribute to mutual understanding by making judicial processes accessible and humanizing victims.</p> |
| (6) c) | c) Increasing stability and security through judicial cooperation, the fight against impunity, organised crime, cyber and hybrid threats, violent extremism and terrorism | (6) c) Increasing stability and security through judicial cooperation, the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms, the fight against impunity, organised crime, cyber and hybrid threats, violent extremism and terrorism; | <p>The relationship between the media and reconciliation is a fundamental pillar of transitional justice and social cohesion after conflict or historical injustice. The media acts as a catalyst for dialogue and a bridge between communities. While it can be a tool for propaganda and hatred, professional, independent and rigorous media contribute to mutual understanding by making judicial processes accessible and humanizing victims.</p> |
| (6) da) | <i>new</i> | (new) (6) da) Enhancing local information eco-system resilience, including by improving the production and access to fact-based information and media and information literacy; | <p>Media literacy is crucial in Africa for combating the rapid spread of misinformation, strengthening democratic engagement, and fostering critical thinking in an increasingly digital society. It enables citizens to analyze, evaluate, and create responsible, high-quality content, empowering them to make informed decisions and resist manipulation.</p> |

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| | | | https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/media-and-information-literacy-critical-skill-all |
| (6) db) | <i>new</i> | (new) (6) db) Supporting regional and global initiatives that invest in the resilience of information ecosystems, information integrity, including independent media, and their infrastructural, technological and operational resilience, as a key pillar to promote peace, and collective as well as human security | Global initiatives to invest in the resilience of information systems, information integrity, and independent media is a critical, evolving, and multi-stakeholder priority for promoting peace, collective security, and human rights. Information and disinformation have local, regional and global destabilisation impacts and efforts should be supported at all levels to address them efficiently. |
| (6) d) | d) Contributing to preventing the circumvention of Union restrictive measures. | | |
| (7) | Strengthening partnerships | | |
| (7) a) | a) Encouraging regional and cross-regional integration, cooperation, dialogue and initiatives | | |
| (7) b) | b) Promoting policy dialogue with the Organisation of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States, African Union and Regional Organisations; | | |
| (7) c) | c) Promoting intercultural dialogue and cooperation, twinning, mobility, exchange and leadership programmes; promoting the role of cultural diversity in all its forms, and reinforcing cooperation on safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage; | (7) c) Promoting intercultural dialogue and cooperation, twinning, mobility, exchange and leadership programmes including among journalists ; promoting the role of cultural diversity in all its forms, and reinforcing cooperation on safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage; | |
| (7) d) | d) Fostering the establishment of people-to-people partnerships based on common interests, and strengthening skills development through cooperation in the fields of education, youth, culture, sport as well as research and innovation; | d) Fostering the establishment of people-to-people partnerships based on common interests, and strengthening skills development through cooperation in the fields of education, youth, culture, media , sport as well as research and innovation; | |
| (7) e) | e) Ensuring engagement with civil society, local authorities and private sector, and strengthening State and local authority institutions and their effective operations in line with their respective mandate; | e) Ensuring engagement with civil society, media , local authorities and private sector, and strengthening State and local authority institutions and their effective operations in line with their respective mandate; | |

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| (7) f) | f) Strengthening awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union in partner countries through strategic communication. | f) Strengthening awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union in partner countries through support to independent media and strategic investment in media as a core EU value infrastructure and democratic institution strategic communication . | The European Democracy Shield has been designed by the EC in November 2025 to provide concrete measures to empower, protect, and promote strong and resilient democracies, as one its core values. Among others, the European Democracy Shield foresees financial support for independent and local journalism, media and digital literacy as well as stepping up action against abusive lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs). https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/stronger-measures-protect-our-democracy-and-civil-society-2025-11-12_en |
| (7) fa) | <i>new</i> | (new) (7) fa Empowering civil society, including independent media, and strengthening its capacity to monitor the implementation of reforms and partnerships, supporting the creation of an enabling environment for civil society organisations and the media, promoting and strengthening pluralism, independence and professionalism of a free and independent media, as well as enhancing digital and media literacy; | |
| (7) fb) | <i>new</i> | (new) (7) fb Supporting regional and global initiatives to address threats to information integrity and support independent media and healthy and resilient information ecosystems as a way to ensure long-lasting partnerships | Information and disinformation have local, regional and global destabilisation impacts and efforts should be supported at all levels to address them efficiently. Distortions in the information related to past, existing or future partnerships can harm EU's reputation and ability to establish, maintain or thrive its partnerships |
| Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific | | | |
| (1) | Supporting inclusive and sustainable growth, decent jobs and the digital transformation | | |
| (1) a) | a) Supporting sustainable, safe, secure and resilient infrastructure and transport connectivity, including road, rail, air and maritime transport, and promoting smart and sustainable mobility, and the uptake of sustainable transport fuels | | |
| (1) b) | b) Promoting trade, business and investment opportunities (including for companies from the European Union), private sector development regulatory convergence with Union's standards, economic integration, diversification of supply chains, as well as local and regional sustainable value chains; | | |

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| (1) c) | c) Enhancing regional integration, intra-regional trade, business dialogue and business-government dialogue at regional and inter-regional levels; | | |
| (1) d) | d) Fostering the use of the Union's single currency for trade, financial services and investment within the region and with respect to the Union; | | |
| (1) e) | e) Promoting secure digital and space economy, supporting actions to close the digital divide, advancing secure and trusted digital infrastructures, promoting human-centric digital governance, including the development of modern data management and protection systems for safe data flows; | e) Promoting secure digital and space economy, supporting actions to close the digital divide, advancing secure and trusted digital infrastructures, promoting human-centric digital governance in line with international human rights law , including the development of modern data management and protection systems for safe data flows; strengthening digital rights and access to information, particularly in contexts of internet shutdowns and online censorship; | Replacing "human-centric digital governance" with "digital governance grounded in international human rights law" (under amendment 1.e)) ensures alignment with international commitments such as the United Nations Global Digital Compact (Objective 3, commitment 22); strengthening accountability and coherence with EU values, and safeguards users against violations, discrimination and abuse across the digital ecosystem. Access to plural, independent, and reliable information is hindered by governments' practice of Internet shutdowns, banning of messenger applications and curtailing digital rights, including the right to privacy and online anonymity |
| (1) ea) | new) | (1) ea) Accelerating the deployment of accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital connectivity, including satellite connectivity, promoting a human rights based and secure digital economy and global governance; and ensuring artificial intelligence systems and tools work in the public interest and rely on reliable fact-based information; | |
| (1) f) | f) Facilitating and enhancing investments in critical raw materials and inputs, sustainable and competitive policies on extraction and treatment of minerals; | | |
| (1) g) | g) Supporting Union trade policy and trade agreements, and their implementation; | | |
| (1) h) | h) Strengthening an inclusive and just transition to green and digital economy and promoting digital governance and e-services as well as the transparency and effectiveness of public finances; | | |
| (1) i) | i) Fostering skills development and decent jobs, as well as research and innovation, supporting international | | |

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| | labour and environment standards, and business and human rights principles; | | |
| (1) j) | j) Supporting Union competitiveness and flexibly responding to economic challenges and opportunities; | | |
| (2) | Fighting climate change, protecting the environment and biodiversity | | |
| (2) a) | a) Promoting the protection and conservation of the environment and biodiversity, and ensuring sustainable management and restoration of natural resources, pollution reduction, biodiversity preservation, including water systems, land, forests and the ocean; | | |
| (2) b) | b) Fostering a sustainable green, blue and circular economy, including bioeconomy, green and smart cities and the access to climate resilient and safe water supply, sanitation and waste services; | | |
| (2) c) | c) Supporting cooperation on environmental challenges, sustainable energy transition, and improved regional energy connectivity as well as promoting energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency; promoting the use of clean energy sources in industry and transport; | | |
| (2) d) | d) Supporting regional initiatives and partner countries' efforts and plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster preparedness and risk reduction in order to support their commitments on climate change and biodiversity, with particular attention to the most vulnerable, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states; | d) Supporting regional initiatives and partner countries' efforts and plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster preparedness and risk reduction in order to support their commitments on climate change and biodiversity, with particular attention to the most vulnerable, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states; including support for cross-border journalism collaborations that investigate and expose environmental crime and related human rights abuses | The region's media require support, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance. Given economic and environmental challenges facing the region, investigative journalism, especially transnational networks/projects exposing malpractice, corruption and environmental crimes are essential and require targeted support. |
| (2) da) | | new) (2) da) Enhancing local information eco-system resilience, including by improving the production and access to fact-based information and media and information literacy. | |
| (2) e) | e) Ensuring food and nutrition security, sustainable and resilient agriculture and sustainable fisheries | | |

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| (3) | Promoting human development and gender equality | | |
| (3) a) | a) Supporting access to and improved quality of education, , healthcare services and health products and nutrition; | | |
| (3) b) | b) Fostering social inclusion, social protection, universal health coverage and the fight against inequalities, with a focus on the most vulnerable; | | |
| (3) c) | c) Promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls, protecting rights of persons with disabilities and of children and fighting child labour, preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence; | c) Promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls, protecting rights of persons with disabilities and of children and fighting child labour, preventing and combating all forms of violence online and offline against women, particularly against women journalists and other public figures such as human rights defenders, to ensure their meaningful participation in public debates , and preventing and combating domestic violence; | <p>Countering gender violence is essential to safeguarding freedom of expression, democratic participation and women's equal enjoyment of rights. In Asia and the Pacific region, journalists face acute pressure, including judicial harassment, violence, physical threats and online abuse, with female journalists being a specific target because of their gender, producing well evidenced chilling effects: women withdraw from public debate or self-censor, undermining media pluralism, information integrity and deepening gender inequalities; as documented by UNESCO. Dedicated and sustained funding is required for the implementation of tailored safety and protection measures, prevention of gender-based reprisals, and support for women's meaningful participation in public debate; in order to promote women's empowerment and address structural barriers in the media and journalism sector.</p> <p>This approach directly aligns with the Commission's Roadmap for Women's Rights. The forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, planned for adoption in March 2026, will also offer an opportunity to translate these commitments into action at the EU level. With this amendment, we want to ensure that such commitments also extend beyond EU borders and benefit partner countries.</p> |
| (3) d) | d) Contributing to the resilience of partner countries, supporting and reinforcing actions addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, fragility challenges and addressing reconstruction needs as well as balance of payment crises; | | |
| (4) | Enhancing cooperation on all aspects of migration, mobility and forced displacement | | |
| (4) a) | a) Addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement | | |

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| (4) b) | b) Strengthening all aspects of migration governance and management, enhancing border management, including the quality of travel documents and visa systems, fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings and fostering cooperation in safe, dignified and sustainable returns, readmission and reintegration of irregular migrants; | | |
| (4) c) | c) Supporting and promoting the use of legal channels of migration and mobility, and encouraging diasporas' contributions to the development of the countries of origin; | | |
| (4) d) | d) Supporting asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced and stateless people, notably the most vulnerable migrants including children, as well as their host communities, and promoting their access to protection and durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and access to resettlement as well as complementary pathways. | 4) d) Supporting asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced and stateless people, as well as their host communities including through access to fact-based and reliable information produced locally, and promoting their access to protection and durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and access to resettlement as well as complementary pathways. | Information is aid, it enables everyone affected by conflict to make life-saving decisions |
| (5) | Promoting and protecting democracy, rule of law, human rights and good governance | | |
| (5) a) | a) Supporting democracy, the rule of law, good governance, transparency, and accountability, protecting civic space, the prevention of and fight against corruption and impunity, and independent, accountable and efficient justice systems; | 5)(a) Supporting democracy, the rule of law, good governance, transparency, and accountability, protecting civic space, with specific attention to protect the most vulnerable, such as women and young people, the prevention of and fight against corruption and impunity including for crimes against journalists, and independent, accountable and efficient justice systems, establishing safety and rapid response mechanisms for journalists facing threats, violence, harassment and intimidation online and offline, particularly including those in exile. Providing dedicated support to journalists and media operating in high-risk environments or in exile, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance. | <p>The region's media require support, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance. Given economic and environmental challenges facing the region, investigative journalism, especially transnational networks/projects exposing malpractice, corruption and environmental crimes are essential and require targeted support.</p> <p>Journalists are often the last pillar of accountability, often at the local level, where other pillars are not functioning. Through investigative journalism they uncover corruption, organized crime, and other issues of public interest such as environmental issues. In the Asia & Pacific this has a direct impact on the safety of all journalists working in the region, who more often resort to self-censorship for fear of (violent) retaliation (UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, 2024)</p> <p>A UN report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression points to a clear upward trend of journalists in exile that tracks the rise in authoritarianism and political repression worldwide. Although exact data on the number of journalists going into exile is limited, records from NGOs show a clear rise in exiled journalists, mirroring growing</p> |

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| | | | <p>authoritarianism. Exiled journalists provide crucial independent information, and sometimes are the only source thereof, for countries in conflict or with restricted freedom of expression. Without them, many places would become informational black holes.</p> <p>Establishing safety mechanisms for journalists at home, as well as abroad, is crucial to enhance the viability of independent media (in exile).</p> |
| (5) aa) | new) | <p>(5) aa) Supporting investigative journalism and independent media, including those in exile, in ensuring transparency, public oversight, and accountability, and as essential tools for exposing corruption, organized crime networks, and illicit financial flows, in line with the Sevilla Commitment; establishing cross-border protection mechanisms for journalists investigating organised crime, including legal defense funds, secure communication infrastructure, emergency and psychosocial support, and emergency relocation support; strengthening judicial independence and capacity to prosecute crimes against journalists.</p> | |
| (5) b) | b) Supporting and ensuring engagement with civil society organisations, freedom of the media, and empowerment of young people in all policy areas and institutional processes; | <p>b) Supporting and ensuring engagement with civil society organisations, freedom of the media, and empowerment of young people in all policy areas and institutional processes; supporting investigative journalism networks and cross-border collaborations exposing transnational corruption and environmental crimes</p> | <p>In Asia and the Pacific region, journalists face acute pressure, including judicial harassment, violence, physical threats and online abuse. Given economic and environmental challenges the region faces, investigative journalism, especially transnational networks/projects exposing malpractice, corruption and environmental crimes are essential and require targeted support.</p> |
| (5) c) | c) Promoting respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, the principles of equality and non-discrimination, with specific attention to protecting those most at risk. | <p>c) Promoting respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, the principles of equality and non-discrimination, with specific attention to protecting those most at risk, including media workers.</p> | <p>In Asia and the Pacific region, journalists face acute pressure, including judicial harassment, violence, physical threats and online abuse, with female journalists being a specific target not only for the work they do but also because of their gender</p> |
| (6) | Contributing to stability, peace and security | | |
| (6) a) | a) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations; | <p>6) a) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations, including by supporting independent local media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools;</p> | <p>During emergencies and crises, the media's agenda needs to still be the aspiration to produce verifiable information and informed debate in the public interest, conveying not only what citizens need to do, but also what they have the right to know. https://www.unesco.org/en/media-crisis</p> <p>By ensuring that voices and concerns are expressed in a non-confrontational and professional way, media contribute to mitigate inter-community tensions and to prevent (further escalation of) political and security crises. Professional, rigorous and independent</p> |

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| | | | media report on exactions based on facts and avoid the spread of hate-speech or disinformation which often spark or worsen crises. |
| (6) b) | b) Supporting peace, mediation, stability and conflict prevention | | |
| (6) c) | c) Increasing stability and security through judicial cooperation, the fight against hybrid and cyber threats, organised crime, illegal trafficking, violent extremism, and terrorism; | c) Increasing stability and security through judicial cooperation, the fight against hybrid and cyber threats, organised crime, illegal trafficking, violent extremism, and terrorism as well as enhancing media literacy and tackling disinformation; | Enhanced support to media literacy and countering dis- and misinformation, including VERLT narratives will contribute to stability and security in the region |
| (6) ca) | <i>new</i> | (new) (6) ca) Supporting freedom and pluralism of the media and the fight against foreign information manipulation and interference, supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including media, civil society and national human rights institutions; | |
| (6) cb) | <i>new</i> | (new) (6) cb) Supporting regional and global initiatives that invest in the resilience of information ecosystems, information integrity, including independent media, and their infrastructural, technological and operational resilience, as a key pillar to promote peace, and collective as well as human security | Global initiatives to invest in the resilience of information systems, information integrity, and independent media is a critical, evolving, and multi-stakeholder priority for promoting peace, collective security, and human rights. These efforts (e.g. Paris Declaration on Multilateral Action for Information Integrity) focus on countering disinformation, ensuring access to reliable information, and safeguarding democratic processes democratic processes. Information and disinformation have local, regional and global destabilisation impacts and efforts should be supported at all levels to address them efficiently. |
| (6) d) | d) Contributing to preventing the circumvention of Union restrictive measures. | | |
| (7) | Strengthening partnerships | | |
| (7) a) | a) Encouraging regional and inter-regional integration, cooperation, dialogue and initiatives; | | |
| (7) b) | b) Promoting policy dialogue with the Organisation of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States; | | |
| (7) c) | c) Promoting the role of culture and intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity in all its forms, and | | |

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| | reinforcing cooperation on safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage; | | |
| (7) d) | d) Fostering the establishment of people-to-people partnerships based on common interests, and strengthening skills development through cooperation in the fields of education, youth, culture, sport, research and innovation; | | |
| (7) e) | e) Ensuring engagement with civil society, local authorities and private sector, and strengthening State and local authority institutions and their effective operations in line with their respective mandate; | | |
| (7) f) | f) Strengthening awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union in partner countries through strategic communication. | | |
| (7) fa) | <i>new</i> | (new) (7) fa) Empowering civil society, including independent media, and strengthening its capacity to monitor the implementation of reforms and partnerships, supporting the creation of an enabling environment for civil society organisations and the media, promoting and strengthening pluralism, independence and professionalism of a free and independent media, as well as enhancing digital and media literacy; | |
| (7) fb) | <i>new</i> | (new) (7) fb) Supporting regional and global initiatives to address threats to information integrity and support independent media and healthy and resilient information ecosystems as a way to ensure long-lasting partnerships | Information and disinformation have local, regional and global destabilisation impacts and efforts should be supported at all levels to address them efficiently. Distortions in the information related to past, existing or future partnerships can harm EU's reputation and ability to establish, maintain or thrive its partnerships |
| Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean | | | |
| (1) | Advancing the agenda of just green and digital transitions for sustainable development | | |
| (1) a) | a) Developing local added value and bi-regional value chains (including on clean energy and critical raw materials and inputs), inclusive and sustainable growth, promoting the development of sustainable production and value chains, research and innovation | | |

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| | as well as decent jobs, by building upon European technology to diversify the economies; | | |
| (1) b) | b) Leveraging value-based investments to address infrastructure needs in a climate neutral, resilient, and nature-positive economy that meets high environmental, social and governance standards; | | |
| (1) c) | c) Developing sustainable finance to attract international investors and promoting green investments; | | |
| (1) d) | d) Fostering a just transition to a sustainable green, blue, digital and circular economy, supporting decarbonisation and resource efficiency in agriculture, transport, forestry, energy, while supporting climate change adaptation; | d) Fostering a just transition to a sustainable green, blue, digital and circular economy, supporting decarbonisation and resource efficiency in agriculture, transport, forestry, energy, communication and media , while supporting climate change adaptation; | |
| (1) e) | e) Supporting sustainable, safe, secure and resilient infrastructure and transport connectivity, including road, rail, air and maritime transport, and the uptake of sustainable transport fuels; | | |
| (1) f) | f) Improving the region's productive and export capacity of critical raw materials with a sustainability focus; | | |
| (1) g) | g) Promoting pollution reduction and protecting, preserving, restoring and ensuring sustainable management of ecosystems, such as water systems, land, forests and the ocean; developing sustainable food systems, sustainable fisheries, nature-based solutions, fighting forest and biodiversity loss; | | |
| (1) h) | h) Advancing digital transformation and secure cyber-resilient digital connectivity, including to reduce the digital gap and the gender divide, promoting the space economy, secure and safe data flows and the use of space-based data, in line with EU standards; | h) Advancing a human rights respecting digital transformation and secure cyber-resilient digital connectivity, including to reduce the digital gap and the gender divide, supporting human rights and international law compliant and locally rooted AI innovation ecosystems, that serve the public interest , promoting the space economy, secure and safe data flows and the use of space-based data, in line with EU standards and international human rights law ; | Replacing "human-centric digital governance" with "digital governance grounded in international human rights law" (under amendment 1.e)) ensures alignment with international commitments such as the United Nations Global Digital Compact (Objective 3, commitment 22); strengthening accountability and coherence with EU values, and safeguards users against violations, discrimination and abuse across the digital ecosystem. |
| (1) ha) | new) | (1) ha) Accelerating the deployment of accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital connectivity, | |

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| | | including satellite connectivity, promoting a human rights based and secure digital economy and global governance; and ensuring artificial intelligence systems and tools work in the public interest and rely on reliable fact-based information; | |
| (1) i) | i) Supporting Union competitiveness and flexibly responding to economic challenges and opportunities; | | |
| (1) j) | j) Promoting just transitions, inclusive societies and tackling inequalities in all its forms, enhancing affordable and equal access to skills development and universal access to health and social protection; | | |
| (1) k) | k) Fostering energy transition and promoting energy security; investing in energy connectivity and renewable energies; promoting the use of clean energy sources in industry and transport. | | |
| (2) | Rolling out a common EU-LAC trade and investment agenda | | |
| a) | a) Improving the conditions for sustainable investment and private sector development through a more conducive business and regulatory environment, promoting business and investment opportunities (including for companies from the European Union), and a regulatory convergence with Union's standards; | | |
| (2) b) | b) Facilitating trade in goods subject to the legislations related to the EU Green Deal; | | |
| (2) c) | c) Facilitating joint ventures, exports and decent work creation by small and medium-sized enterprises | | |
| (2) d) | d) Ensuring the implementation of trade and association agreements including through technical assistance and business involvement; | | |
| (2) e) | e) Fostering the use of the Union's single currency for trade, financial services and investment within the region and with respect to the Union | | |

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| (3) | Enhancing justice, citizen security and the fight against transnational organised crime, contributing to stability, peace and security | | |
| (3) a) | a) Supporting cooperation and coordination against transnational organised crime, and the financial flows it generates, building bridges between justice and security institutions based on the convergence and harmonisation of rule of law policies and instruments; | | |
| (3) aa) | new | <p>new (3)(aa) Supporting investigative journalism and independent media, including those in exile, in ensuring transparency, public oversight, and accountability, and as essential tools for exposing corruption, organized crime networks, and illicit financial flows, in line with the Sevilla Commitment; establishing cross-border protection mechanisms for journalists investigating organised crime, including legal defense funds, secure communication infrastructure, emergency and psychosocial support, and emergency relocation support; strengthening judicial independence and capacity to prosecute crimes against journalists.</p> | <p>Latin America has one of the highest rates of impunity for crimes against journalists. The decline of democracy and the rise of authoritarian regimes further weakens the region's judicial system. The growing rise of authoritarian regimes in Latin America, furthermore, leads to more restriction of civic space and of the plurality and independence of media. This has a direct impact on the safety of all journalists working in the region, who more often resort to self-censorship for fear of (violent) retaliation. Stimulating cross-border (investigative) journalism, in a region that sees more and more journalists going into exile, helps to strengthen a resilient and independent media and civil society landscape. Safety of journalists and cross-border collaboration allows them to continue doing their work, even if from exile.</p> <p>Media development challenges in Latin America (DW Akademie)</p> <p>A UN report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression points to a clear upward trend of journalists in exile that tracks the rise in authoritarianism and political repression worldwide. Although exact data on the number of journalists going into exile is limited, records from NGOs show a clear rise in exiled journalists, mirroring growing authoritarianism. Exiled journalists provide crucial independent information, and sometimes are the only source thereof, for countries in conflict or with restricted freedom of expression. Without them, many places would become informational black holes.</p> <p>Establishing safety mechanisms for journalists at home, as well as abroad, is crucial to enhance the viability of independent media (in exile).</p> |
| (3) b) | b) Strengthening partner countries' capacities to respond to the impacts of security and cyber threats and better protecting citizens and the most vulnerable; | | |

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| (3) c) | c) Strengthening partner countries' capacities to secure value chains and logistics; | | |
| (3) d) | d) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations; | a) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations; including by supporting independent local media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools; by investing in the safety, resilience, infrastructural, operational and technical capacities necessary for them to provide public-interest information; | |
| (3) e) | e) Supporting peace, mediation, stability and conflict prevention, and strengthening the bi-regional partnership on security and justice; | | |
| (3) ea) | new) | (3) ea) Supporting regional and global initiatives that invest in the resilience of information ecosystems, information integrity, including independent media, and their infrastructural, technological and operational resilience, as a key pillar to promote peace, and collective as well as human security | |
| (3) f) | f) Increasing stability and security through the fight against hybrid and cyber threats, impunity, corruption, illegal trafficking, violent extremism, and terrorism; | Increasing stability and security through the fight against hybrid and cyber threats, impunity including for crimes against journalists , corruption, illegal trafficking, violent extremism, and terrorism; | Latin America has one of the highest rates of impunity for crimes against journalists. The decline of democracy and the rise of authoritarian regimes further weakens the region's judicial system. Through investigative journalism they uncover corruption, organized crime, and other issues of public interest. This has a direct impact on the safety of all journalists working in the continent, who more often resort to self-censorship for fear of (violent) retaliation. (UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, 2024) |
| (3) fa) | new) | (3) fa) Supporting freedom and pluralism of the media and the fight against foreign information manipulation and interference, supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including media, civil society and national human rights institutions; | |
| (3) g) | g) Contributing to preventing the circumvention of Union restrictive measures. | | |
| (4) | Promoting human rights, human development, democracy, and rule of law | | |

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| (4) a) | a) Protecting and promoting human rights, with specific attention to protect the most vulnerable, democracy, rule of law and good governance, including accountability, and the prevention of and fight against corruption, including in relation to organised crime; | | |
| (4) b) | b) Promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls, preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, as well as promoting young people's empowerment in all policy areas and institutional processes; | b) Promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls, preventing and combating all forms of violence online and offline against women, particularly against women journalists and other public figures such as human rights defenders, to ensure their meaningful participation in public debates , and preventing and combating domestic violence, as well as promoting young people's empowerment in all policy areas and institutional processes; | <p>Countering gender violence is essential to safeguarding freedom of expression, democratic participation and women's equal enjoyment of rights. Women journalists face heightened online and offline violence, legal harassment and coordinated attacks due to both their profession and gender, producing well evidenced chilling effects: women withdraw from public debate or self-censor, undermining media pluralism, information integrity and deepening gender inequalities; as documented by UNESCO. Dedicated and sustained funding is required for the implementation of tailored safety and protection measures, prevention of gender-based reprisals, and support for women's meaningful participation in public debate; in order to promote women's empowerment and address structural barriers in the media and journalism sector.</p> <p>This approach directly aligns with the Commission's Roadmap for Women's Rights. The forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, planned for adoption in March 2026, will also offer an opportunity to translate these commitments into action at the EU level. With this amendment, we want to ensure that such commitments also extend beyond EU borders and benefit partner countries.</p> |
| (4) c) | c) Safeguarding the space for civil society, and supporting freedom and pluralism of the media; | (4)(c) Safeguarding the space for civil society, and supporting freedom and pluralism of the media, with particular attention to protecting investigative journalists facing threats from criminal organizations and corrupt officials; supporting sustainable funding models for independent media to reduce vulnerability to economic and political pressure, protecting the safety and security of journalists and media organisations especially in high risk and exile environments. | <p>Latin America has one of the highest rates of impunity for crimes against journalists. The decline of democracy and the rise of authoritarian regimes further weakens the region's judicial system. The growing rise of authoritarian regimes in Latin America, furthermore, leads to more restriction of civic space and of the plurality and independence of media. This has a direct impact on the safety of all journalists working in the region, who more often resort to self-censorship for fear of (violent) retaliation. Stimulating cross-border (investigative) journalism, in a region that sees more and more journalists going into exile, helps to strengthen a resilient and independent media and civil society landscape. Safety of journalists and cross-border collaboration allows them to continue doing their work, even if from exile.</p> <p>Collaborative journalism and cross-border collaborations for newsafety: Navigating security and solidarity mechanisms in cooperative practices in Latin American news media (2025)</p> <p>Beyond Borders: How Exiled Media Shape International Reporting •</p> |

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| | | | JX Fund |
| (4) d) | d) Supporting greater access to and improved quality of education, healthcare services and health products, and supporting food and nutrition security, and access to climate resilient and safe water supply and water efficiency, sanitation inclusive of all and waste services, protecting rights of persons with disabilities and of children and fighting child labour; | | |
| (4) e) | e) Fostering social inclusion, social protection and the fight against inequalities, with a focus on the most vulnerable; | | |
| (4) f) | f) Enhancing cooperation on migration, including combatting migrant smuggling, and human mobility | | |
| (4) g) | g) Contributing to the resilience of partner countries, supporting and reinforcing actions addressing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, fragility challenges and addressing reconstruction needs as well as balance of payment crises. | | |
| (5) | Strengthening partnerships | | |
| (5) a) | a) Promoting the EU-LAC bi-regional partnership; | | |
| (5) b) | b) Encouraging regional and inter-regional integration, connectivity and cooperation; | | |
| (5) c) | c) Promoting policy dialogue with the Organisation of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States; | | |
| (5) d) | d) Promoting the role of culture and intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity in all its forms, and reinforcing cooperation on safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage; | | |
| (5) e) | e) Fostering the establishment of people-to-people partnerships based on common interests, and strengthening skills development through cooperation | | |

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| | in the fields of education, youth, culture, sport and research and innovation; | | |
| (5) f) | f) Ensuring engagement with civil society, local authorities and private sector, and strengthening State and local authority institutions and their effective operations in line with their respective mandate; | | |
| (5) g) | g) Strengthening awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union in partner countries through strategic communication. | | |
| Annex II.F – Global | | | |
| (1) | Supporting human development | | |
| (1) a) | a) Preventing and combatting health threats, such as pandemics and anti-microbial resistance, strengthening health systems and health equity, promoting universal health coverage, and sexual and reproductive health and rights; | a) Preventing and combatting health threats, such as pandemics and anti-microbial resistance, strengthening health systems and health equity, ensuring access to reliable and fact-based health information , promoting universal health coverage, and sexual and reproductive health and rights; | Strengthen access to reliable, fact-based health information as no crisis—whether health, climate, economic, political, or humanitarian—can be addressed without reliable information at its core. |
| (1) b) | b) Supporting inclusive, equitable and quality education and skills, including via global initiatives and research; | | |
| (1) c) | c) Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and addressing inequalities; | c) Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls and addressing inequalities; combatting all forms of sexual and gender-based violence online and offline, including against women journalists and other public figures such as human rights defenders, to ensure their meaningful participation in public debates. | <p>Countering gender violence and its impact on women's enjoyment of their rights and their meaningful participation in public life. Women journalists face heightened online and offline violence, legal harassment and coordinated attacks due to both their profession and gender, with chilling effects on freedom of expression and public participation, as documented by UNESCO. Tailored safety and protection measures, prevention of gender-based reprisals, and support for women's meaningful participation in public debate, while promoting women's empowerment and addressing structural barriers in the media and journalism sector.</p> <p>This approach directly aligns with the Commission's Roadmap for Women's Rights. The forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, planned for adoption in March 2026, will also offer an opportunity to translate these commitments into action at the EU level. With this amendment, we want to ensure that such commitments also extend beyond EU borders and benefit partner countries.</p> |

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| (1) d) | d) Protecting children and young people, promoting youth engagement and empowerment, and empowering persons with disabilities; | | |
| (1) e) | e) Steering and contributing to the global agenda on the governance of migration and forced displacement and supporting the Union commitments in this regard; | | |
| (1) f) | f) Contributing to the global agenda on decent work for all, including through the promotion of international labour standards, and universal social protection and social inclusion. | | |
| (2) | Advancing a just green and digital transition for sustainable prosperity | | |
| (2) a) | a) Accelerating a just transition to a climate-neutral, resilient, sustainable, green, blue and circular economy, including by supporting global initiatives; | | |
| (2) b) | b) Strengthening global governance and knowledge on climate, food and agriculture, environment, natural resources and the ocean , supporting global public goods; | b) Strengthening global governance and knowledge on climate, food and agriculture, environment, natural resources and the ocean , supporting global public goods, including fact-based information; | <p>Fact-based information is a public good without which trust in public and scientific institutions erodes. Trust in scientific knowledge and factual information about the causes and impacts of climate change is the cornerstone of effective climate action. The weakening of public interest media fuels disbelief and leaves room for misinformation. The European Commission itself has on numerous occasions referenced the importance of media pluralism and resilience of independent media as one of the antidotes to climate misinformation.</p> <p>Since there is no frontiers to information, and disinformation is spreading and produces effects globally, the EU should contribute to prevent climate disinformation globally, taking example on what the EC does within the EU: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-disinformation_en</p> |
| (2) c) | c) Accelerating the deployment of accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital connectivity, including satellite connectivity, and promoting a human-centric and secure digital economy and global governance; | c) Accelerating the deployment of accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital connectivity, including satellite connectivity, promoting a human rights based , and secure digital economy and global governance; and ensuring artificial intelligence systems and tools work in the public interest and rely on reliable fact based information. | <p>The replacement of “human-centric digital governance” with a “human rights respecting and secure digital economy and global governance” ensures legal clarity and alignment with international commitments such as the United Nations Global Digital Compact (Objective 3: “Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights”; commitment 22: “We will uphold international human rights law throughout the life cycle of digital and emerging technologies”. Such change strengthens coherence with EU values, and safeguards users against violations,</p> |

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| | | | discrimination and abuse across the digital ecosystem. |
| (2) d) | d) Promoting sustainable finance, public and private investments, sustainable and resilient value chains, responsible business conduct, and supporting the Union's trade policy and economic security in multilateral settings. | | |
| (3) | Promoting and protecting democracy, human rights and rule of law | | |
| (3) a) | a) Upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms, promoting the principles of equality and non-discrimination, protecting and enhancing an enabling civic space, including by empowering human rights defenders and their networks worldwide; | | |
| (3) b) | b) Supporting democracy, including effective representation and participation also by deploying EU electoral observation missions; | | |
| (3) c) | c) Addressing threats to democracy, including foreign information manipulation and interference and disinformation, and supporting free and independent media; | | |
| (3) ca) | new | <p>3. ca) Promoting, protecting and supporting freedom of expression and information integrity by resourcing free, independent, and pluralistic media and supporting their economic resilience; enhancing their independence and their capacity; protecting the safety and security of journalists and media organisations especially in high risk and exile environments; and promoting enabling environments required to sustain independent journalism and healthy information ecosystems, including legal defense funds, emergency and psychosocial support, and relocation assistance.</p> | <p>Free, independent and pluralistic media as essential to peace, collective security, prosperity and information integrity. By strengthening journalist safety, media sustainability and resilient information ecosystems, they address growing threats to democracy and reinforce the enabling conditions required for independent journalism to operate, including in high-risk and exile contexts.</p> <p>As stated in the Paris Declaration on Multilateral Action for Information Integrity and Independent Media, signed by 34 states in October 2025, including 19 EU member states to date, "independent and reliable information constitutes a shared public good essential for economic and social advancement and a foundational resource for our 21st century economy and society, and that, without reliable information, the most pressing economic, social, and environmental challenges of our times cannot be addressed". The declaration also underlines that "free and independent media play a central role in the provision of reliable information ; that the financial crisis affecting independent</p> |

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| | | | <p>media has led to a degradation of information integrity, and that public support is necessary to sustain reliable information”.</p> <p>Support to media is an investment for our future and our shared prosperity. To quote 11 leading economists, including Nobel laureates Joseph Stiglitz, Daron Acemoglu and Philippe Aghion, access to reliable information is the fundamental resource that fuels our 21st century economy. In the information age, every sector of society — from health to education to the military — relies upon the production of factual and robust information, no less than previous eras relied on the power of steam or coal for industrial development. It will be even more important in the artificial intelligence (AI)- driven economy of the future.</p> <p>Alongside direct support to media outlets, system-level interventions, from encouraging legislative frameworks favorable to independent pluralistic media to unlocking additional resources, are needed to build truly resilient media ecosystems, lasting beyond a grant period and benefiting the whole independent media ecosystem. Support to the sector needs to help catalyze structural change in addition to short term support to selected media organisations. The OECD Principles for Effective Support to Media are a key guiding framework for the design, implementation, and evaluation of the programmes supporting media freedom, public interest journalism and information integrity in partner countries.</p> |
| (3) d) | d) Supporting and protecting the rule of law and international law, including through international justice mechanisms, transparency and accountability mechanisms. | | |
| (3) e) | e) Strengthening global and multilateral human rights system, processes and architecture. | | |
| (4) | Contributing to peace, security, stability and response to crises | | |
| (4) a) | a) Supporting peace, stability and conflict prevention through foresight, conflict analysis, early warning, peacebuilding, mediation and dialogue; | | |
| (4) aa) | new) | (4) aa) <i>Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations, including by supporting independent local media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools; by investing in the safety,</i> | |

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| | | resilience, infrastructural, operational and technical capacities necessary for them to provide public-interest information; | |
| (4) b) | b) Tackling global threats, including, hybrid, space and cyber threats, promoting maritime and aviation security; | | |
| (4) c) | c) Increasing stability and security through multilateral initiatives against terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism, as well as global cooperation against illicit trafficking and, organised crime | | |
| (4) d) | d) Mitigating chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks; | | |
| (4) e) | e) Supporting global initiatives to address climate and environmental risks with a potentially destabilising impact on peace and security; | | |
| (4) f) | f) Supporting global initiatives to curb the use of minerals and other natural resources to finance conflicts and prevent related human rights abuses and risks in supply chains. | | |
| (4) fa) | | <p>4. fa) Supporting regional and global initiatives that invest in the resilience of information ecosystems, information integrity, including independent media, and their infrastructural, technological and operational resilience, as a key pillar to promote peace, and collective as well as human security</p> | <p>Free, independent and pluralistic media as essential to peace, collective security and information integrity.</p> <p>As highlighted in a recent OSCE report, media freedom improves human security and strengthens international and national peace. In particular, strong independent media reduce the risk of international armed conflict.</p> <p>Strengthening the resilience of information spaces against manipulation by authoritarian actors is crucial for the effectiveness of defense efforts, for stability in areas of interest to the EU and for Europe's collective security. As demonstrated by the central role played by independent media in Moldova in countering Russian interference and hybrid warfare during the 2024 presidential election and 2025 legislative elections, support for independent media must occupy a central place in the arsenal of prevention and response deployed by the EU in promoting stability</p> <p>By strengthening journalist safety, media sustainability and resilient information ecosystems, they address growing threats to democracy and reinforce the enabling conditions required for independent</p> |

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| | | | journalism to operate, including in high-risk and exile contexts. |
| (5) | Strengthening partnerships and strategic relations | | |
| (5) a) | a) Upholding multilateralism and multilateral agreements and engaging in global partnerships, including supporting global economic governance and development architecture; | | |
| (5) b) | b) Supporting global initiatives to combat illicit financial flows, money laundering and tax evasion; | | |
| (5) ba) | new) | (5) ba) Supporting investigative journalism and independent media, including those in exile, in ensuring transparency, public oversight, and accountability, and as essential tools for exposing corruption, organized crime networks, and illicit financial flows, in line with the Sevilla Commitment; establishing cross-border protection mechanisms for journalists investigating organised crime, including legal defense funds, secure communication infrastructure, emergency and psychosocial support, and emergency relocation support; strengthening judicial independence and capacity to prosecute crimes against journalists. | |
| (5) c) | c) Strengthening institutional and operational capacities of European and partner countries' local authority networks and alliances for development; | | |
| (5) d) | d) Increasing capacities and maintaining partnerships with European and partner countries' civil society organisations, networks, platforms and alliances to create an enabling environment for citizen participation and civil society action, including in the Union; | | |
| (5) e) | e) Engaging in public diplomacy activities to promote dialogue and mutual understanding. | | |
| (5) ea) | new | 5. ea) Supporting global initiatives to combat threats to information integrity and support independent media and healthy and resilient information ecosystems. | Free, independent and pluralistic media as essential to peace, collective security and information integrity. Global partnerships and multilateral action are critical to support existing efforts and the European Commission can play an important role to strengthen these multilateral mechanisms as it has done in other fields. There is growing recognition for the need to invest more in global instruments: for instance the Paris Declaration on Multilateral Action for Information |

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| | | | <p>Integrity and Independent Media (Oct 2025), signed by 34 states, including 19 EU member states to date emphasizes that “independent and reliable information constitutes a shared public good essential for economic and social advancement and a foundational resource for our 21st century economy and society, and that, without reliable information, the most pressing economic, social, and environmental challenges of our times cannot be addressed” and commits to “recognizing reliable information as a global public good requiring sustained public support, and committing to advance the provision of this public good and safeguard independent journalism through multilateral action, while fostering innovative and sustainable business models for the production and distribution of reliable information”</p> |
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