

Joint Recommendation:

Integrating support to independent media and journalism as a strategic priority in EU external action

Suggested amendments to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Global Europe

7 April 2026

Why supporting independent, public-interest media and journalism matters to the EU Global Agenda:

1. Independent, public interest media and journalism are prerequisites to deliver EU global objectives

- **Access to fact-based information is a prerequisite for functioning democratic institutions, effective public policies, stable and inclusive societies, and economic prosperity.** Independent media and journalism contribute directly to these conditions in EU's partner countries by enabling transparency, supporting accountability, facilitating public participation, and strengthening trust.
- **The success and sustainability of EU interventions in the following areas depend on the existence of trusted and accessible information ecosystems:**
 - ◆ Economic development and investment environments rely on transparency, oversight, and access to reliable information
 - ◆ Global Gateway and infrastructure investments depend on public trust, local ownership, and informed communities
 - ◆ Digital transformation and connectivity increasingly shape access to information, public debate, and economic opportunities. It needs to be ensured that these spaces remain open and grounded in human rights based values.
 - ◆ Resilience, crisis prevention and response require timely, accurate and locally relevant information.
 - ◆ Climate, migration and human development policies depend on access to reliable information.
- For that reason, media, journalism and the information ecosystem should be **understood not only as a standalone sector, but also as a strategic infrastructure and public good**, underpinning the effectiveness of the European Union's external action and contributing to its **strategic autonomy, stability, security and competitiveness**.

2. The collapse of information ecosystems is a systemic risk to EU interests

- **The collapse of the public-interest information ecosystems**, one of the most significant structural vulnerabilities that affect the EU and its partner countries, is not a peripheral concern, or a niche subject, but a **cross-cutting and underlining crisis with real consequences for social fabric, democracy, economy, and security**:
 - ◆ undermining population's access to public resources, capital and aid,
 - ◆ eroding trust in institutions,
 - ◆ misleading communities,
 - ◆ deepening vulnerabilities and marginalisation,
 - ◆ destabilising democracy and fundamental rights.
- Without robust support for the development of healthy information ecosystems and access to reliable, fact-based, independent information in EU's partner countries, **restrictive, opaque, non-rule-based and narrative-controlled information environments emerge and expand, significantly undermining EU interests, weakening its security and strategic competitiveness and the effectiveness of its external actions**.
- **This collapse is not addressed by the proposed Regulation**: unless public interest media and journalism are treated and financed as a public good (relying on a mix of public, private and commercial funding and collective funding instruments), the information environment will rapidly further deteriorate.
- **An effective response should include explicit provisions in the Global Europe proposal, dedicated funding envelopes, and coherent regional and global programming for journalism and media support, through direct instruments, partnerships and contribution to multilateral initiatives**

3. EU commitments will fall short without funding and policy alignments

- The proposed regulation establishing Global Europe reaffirms¹ **EU's commitments to the [2030 Agenda](#), the [Sevilla Commitment \(2025\)](#) and the [Pact for the Future \(2024\)](#)** while placing a significant emphasis on crisis prevention and

¹ Commitments are reaffirmed in recital 42 of the proposed regulation, as well as in the explanatory memorandum ([COM/2025/551 final](#))

preparedness, resilience, democratic governance, digital transition and infrastructure to allow the Union and its partners to be better positioned to address global challenges. These are, precisely, the **areas in which evidence shows that independent media and a resilient public-interest information environment are indispensable**.

- In its current form, the proposed Regulation does not recognise independent, public interest media and journalism and resilient information ecosystems as strategic enablers of the EU's external action objectives. As a result, support in these areas risks remaining fragmented, discretionary and unevenly distributed across geographic and thematic programmes.
- It is paramount that the Regulation goes one step further and implements a coherent and strategic approach to recognise **resilient, plural and independent information ecosystems as a cross-cutting priority to achieve the objectives set in this Regulation, as suggested in the section below**.

What is missing in the proposed Regulation and how we suggest it is addressed:

The proposed Regulation seeks to make the EU's external action more flexible, allowing it to respond to an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment. **Increased flexibility should not come at the expense of predictability** for policy priorities that are essential to the effectiveness of the EU's external action², such as the **support to independent, public interest media and journalism and resilient information ecosystems**.

To fulfil EU's commitments and ensure the effectiveness of EU's external action objectives, the Regulation must:

- **Ensure sufficient and predictable funding to support public-interest information ecosystems and access to reliable, fact-based, independent information.**
- **Recognise media and journalism support as a strategic policy priority to deliver on EU external action objectives by strengthening the recitals, principles, objectives and implementation of the instrument to explicitly integrate human rights, democracy, and in media and information integrity into its core objectives, principles, and implementation.**
- Acknowledging the cross-cutting nature of public information ecosystems by systemic **inclusion of journalism and media support across regions and in the global programming under specific objectives**; across direct instruments, partnerships and contribution to multilateral initiatives; related to the areas of crisis, conflict and emergency prevention, response, and recovery; stability, peace, and resilience;³ anti-corruption, transparency and accountability mechanisms for democracy, good governance and rule of law⁴; resilient, sustainable, secure and human rights-respecting digital and communications infrastructure⁵ and economic development, investment and trade by **amending specific parts of the regulation as per suggested below**.

Our complete list of suggested amendments is available in the [following document](#). In this executive summary we are prioritising suggested amendments in relation to four priority areas:

Priority area	Relevant Provisions	Technical Amendments	Objective
1. Objectives, Principles and Implementation of the Global Europe Instrument	Articles 4, 9, 10 and 23 Recitals 27, 41	Amendments 1 to 7	Integrate support to independent media and journalism as a strategic priority in EU external action.
2. Crisis, conflict and emergency prevention, response, and recovery; stability, peace, and resilience	Annex II.A, Annex II.B, Annex II.C, Annex II.D, Annex II.E, Annex II.F	Amendments 8 to 15	Recognise media and journalism as essential democratic pillars and critical infrastructure for crisis, conflict and emergency prevention, response, and recovery; stability, peace, and resilience.
3. Anti-corruption, transparency and accountability mechanisms for democracy, good governance and rule of law	Annex II.A, Annex II.B, Annex II.C, Annex II.D, Annex II.E, Annex II.F	Amendment 16	Recognise independent and investigative journalism as essential to transparency, public oversight and accountability, including in relation to corruption, organised crime, public spending and the rule of law.
4. Enabling environment for resilient information ecosystems related to the development of sustainable, accessible, secure and human rights-respecting digital and communications infrastructure	Annex II.A, Annex II.B, Annex II.C, Annex II.D, Annex II.E, Annex II.F	Amendments 16 to 24	Ensure that digital transformation and digital sovereignty efforts are grounded in international human rights law, and recognise that independent media, access to information, and reliable fact-based content are essential to secure, democratic and resilient digital ecosystems.

² This concern is also recognised in Sweden's Non-paper, arguing that the EU should "combine spending flexibility with spending predictability on democracy assistance" and "maintain explicit programming for democracy and human rights" in order to safeguard the EU's strategic interests and external action objectives. A stronger democracy dimension in the Global Europe instrument for 2028–2034 (January 2026)

³ in line with [UN Pact for the Future](#) (2024)

⁴ in line with [UN Sevilla Commitment](#) (2025)

⁵ in line with Global Digital Compact commitments and [UN resolution A/RES/80/173](#) (2025)

Suggested amendments and Justifications

Amendments to the objectives and principles of the proposed Global Europe Regulation

- The following amendments ensure that media pluralism, freedom of information and access to information are included as enabling rights in the objectives and principles of the regulation.
- Independent media and journalists are at most risk in fragile and repressive environments, including those in exile, therefore they should be eligible for flexible and urgent safety and support modalities under the instrument.

Amendments, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5: Articles 4, 9, 10 and 23

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
1	Article 4 – Objectives of the instrument (1) (a)	<i>(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</i>	<i>(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;</i>
2	Article 9 – General Principles (4)	<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>
3	Article 9 – General Principles (new)	(new)	<i>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.</i>
4	Article 10 – Mainstreaming	<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>
5	Article 23 – Implementation and forms of Union Funding (4) (b)	<i>(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,</i>	<i>(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</i>

		<p>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>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>
--	--	--	---

Amendments 6 and 7: Recitals

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
6	Recital 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>
7	Recital 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>

Amendments on the role of public interest independent media and journalism as essential infrastructure for crisis, conflict and emergency prevention, response, and recovery; stability, peace, and resilience

- “Harmful information is no longer just a communications challenge, it is a crisis affecting humanitarian access and action, as well as safety of staff and volunteers. Addressing it requires a shift in mindset and a recognition that trust, truth and information access are foundational to humanitarian impact.” (IFRC’s [World Disasters Report 2026 Truth, Trust and Humanitarian Action in the Age of Harmful Information](#) p.127)
- Journalists as first responders: In fragile and conflict affected areas, local media are often the most trusted and accessible source of information. Local media play a unique role in protection of and access to local populations, two responsibilities shared with humanitarian actors. During emergencies audiences consume more news and journalism than usual as they are looking to understand events and be able to make informed decisions. This helps reduce the duration of crises and the human costs. (Altay et al 2022: [News Can Help! The Impact of News Media and Digital Platforms on Awareness of and Belief in Misinformation](#); Lowrey 2004: [Media Dependency During a Large-Scale Social Disruption: The Case of September 11.](#))
- Local, public interest and community media are often among the first to collapse during economic and political crises, and humanitarian emergencies; they are often the most under-resourced and in need of infrastructural support (equipment, safety materials, training, safety locations to broadcast or publish...) to boost their resilience and continue informing those most in need.
- Absence of reliable information exacerbates instability, crises and polarisation, undermines humanitarian efforts, and increases vulnerability to foreign information manipulation and interference. Independent public-interest information is a

key antidote to countering mis- and disinformation, relaying essential information as a trusted source that people in need turn to when unsure.

- 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.
- 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.
- Supporting the media as a key tool for democratic resilience must safeguard the editorial independence of newsrooms and avoid their instrumentalisation for other purposes than informing their audiences and thereby contributing to the democratic resilience of the EU and GEI partner partners.
- Supporting the resilience and infrastructural needs of independent media to fulfil their role during crisis and emergencies is a strategic investment in human security, contributing to peacebuilding, crisis resilience, and informed citizen engagement.
- Journalism can improve how authorities respond to crises. Governments are more responsive to the needs of their citizens when there is wider news coverage and independent journalism reports on it. (*Banerjee et al. 2023: [Strategies for Building Trust in News: What the Public Say They Want Across Four Countries.](#)*)

Amendment 8: Cross-regional dedicated support for media and information integrity

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
8	<p>Annex II.A – Europe (1) jb)</p> <p>Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (3) ca)</p> <p>Annex II.C – Sub-Saharan Africa (5) db)</p> <p>Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (5) ba)</p> <p>Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (4) ca)</p> <p>Annex II.F – Global (3) ca)</p>	new	<p>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>

Amendments 9, 10 and 11: Information integrity, human rights and resilient information ecosystems.

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
9	<p>Annex II.A – Europe (1) ja)</p> <p>Annex II.C – Sub-Saharan Africa (5) da)</p> <p>Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (6) ca)</p> <p>Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (3) fa)</p>	new	<p>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;</p>
10	<p>Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (3) b)</p>	<p>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, supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including national human rights institutions;</p>	<p>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 pluralism, local media and support to factchecking organisations; supporting local and regional capacities for human rights protection, including national human rights institutions;</p>

11	Annex II.F – Global (5) ea)	<i>new</i>	5. ea) Supporting global initiatives to combat threats to information integrity and support independent media and healthy and resilient information ecosystems.
----	--------------------------------	------------	--

Amendments 12, 13 and 14: Supporting independent media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
12	Annex II.A – Europe (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;
13	Annex II.C – Sub-Saharan Africa (6) a) Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (6) a) Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (3) d)	a) Preparing for and responding effectively to crisis, emerging crisis and post-crisis situations;	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;
14	Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (2) aa) Annex II.F – Global (4) aa)	<i>new</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;

Amendment 15: Supporting independent media as a key pillar to promote peace, stability and security.

AM num	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
15	Annex II.A – Europe (2) ea) Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (2) ca) Annex II.C – Sub-Saharan Africa (6) db) Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (6) cb) Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (3) ea) Annex II.F – Global	<i>new</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

4 fa)		
-------	--	--

Amendments on the role of independent media and investigative journalism as anti-corruption, transparency and accountability mechanisms for democracy, good governance and rule of law

- Independent and investigative journalism is a core pillar of democratic governance, public accountability and anti-corruption efforts. (*Forum on Information and Democracy's "The Economic imperative of investing in Public Interest Media"*)
- Independent media and investigative journalism can help ensure transparency and oversight in the use of EU external spending, development finance and public resources, thereby strengthening public trust and improving governance outcomes. Journalism can have this effect by simply existing because the mere possibility of negative reporting can encourage elites to behave better, when they believe and know that they are being monitored. (*Cage 2020: Media competition, information provision and political participation: Evidence from French local newspapers and elections, 1944–2014*)
- Investigative journalism and reporting has a high return on investment for governments. It leads to resignations and indictments of corrupt leaders, creation of new laws and increases the efficiency of public services that ultimately saves money and improves democracies. In one case in the US it is estimated that each dollar spent on the investigation lead to 287 USD in net policy benefits. (*James T. Hamilton, Democracy's Detectives: The Economics of Investigative Journalism*)
- The Mossack Fonseca and the Panama papers are also well-known cases where the media have played a role in detecting, exposing, and holding accountable large-scale fraud and tax avoidance schemes. Panama Papers helped recover more than \$1.2 billion around the world (ICIJ) These investigations can lead to stolen funds being returned to the public, as shown by projects such as the [Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project](#) in Sarajevo.
- Journalism has a direct impact on revealing and preventing corruption. A study from Norway shows that journalism was instrumental in detecting a quarter of all corruption cases. Source: Gottschalk 2021: [Filling the Gap in White-Collar Crime Detection Between Government and Governance: The Role of Investigative Journalists and Fraud Examiners](#)
- Because of their crucial role in holding democracies and governments to account, journalists investigating corruption and organised crime are increasingly exposed to violence, legal harassment, surveillance, strategic lawsuits, exile, transnational repression and cross-border threats. Strengthening their protection and enabling environment is therefore essential to ensuring that media can continue to fulfil their watchdog role.
- There is a correlation between press freedom and economic growth and stability. Media freedom is one of the 14 policy areas where countries can make changes that would improve short to medium term economic activity. Dropping in Press Freedom can have a reduction in GDP by 1 or 2% and is slow to recover. Furthermore it makes the country less attractive for investors and trade. (*Alam and Ali Shah 2013: The Role of Press Freedom in Economic Development: A Global Perspective*; *Ketteni and Maniou 2025: Examining the relationship between economic growth and media in different economies: the role of press freedom, media corruption and diversity*; *Nguyen et al 2021: Freedom of the press and corporate misconduct*)
- Alignment with the UN Sevilla Commitment (2025) and with the EU's broader objectives on good governance, transparency and rule of law.

Amendment 16: Support to investigative journalism and independent media

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
16	<p>Annex II.A – Europe (1) ga)</p> <p>Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (2) aa)</p> <p>Annex II.C – Sub-Saharan Africa (5) ba)</p> <p>Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (5) aa)</p> <p>Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (3) aa)</p> <p>Annex II.F – Global (5) ba)</p>	<i>new</i>	<p>Supporting investigative journalism and independent media 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>

Amendments on the enabling environment for resilient information ecosystems related to the development of sustainable, accessible, secure and human rights-respecting digital and communications infrastructure

- The design and governance of infrastructure, connectivity, data systems, artificial intelligence and digital platforms directly shape who can access information, whose voices are visible, and whether public-interest journalism can survive and reach audiences.
- EU's external action should ensure that digital investments and partnerships are compliant with international human rights law, and respect access to information, media pluralism, public-interest innovation and trusted information ecosystems, in line with recent international commitments (Global Digital Compact, and WSIS+20).
- Digital infrastructure investments under Global Europe must explicitly include communications infrastructure for independent and local media (equipment, broadcast capacity, secure hosting, and connectivity solutions as well as power) that allow media to operate when commercial infrastructure fails or is deliberately disrupted.
- Communications and digital infrastructure investments that do not account for needs of independent media and local media create a structural gap in the EU's broader objectives on human security, resilience and stability, crisis response, but also in democratic governance and rule of law.

Amendments 17 and 18: Public-interest, accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital and communications infrastructure

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
17	<p>Annex II.A – Europe (2) ma)</p> <p>Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (4) ea)</p> <p>Annex II. C – Sub-Saharan Africa (1) ja)</p> <p>Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (1) ea)</p> <p>Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (1) ha)</p>	new	<p>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>
18	Annex II.F – Global (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, and 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.

Amendments 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24: Digital development in compliance with international human rights law.

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
19	Annex II. A – Europe (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	(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;

		cybersecurity and cyber defence capabilities;	
20	Annex II. B – Middle East (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.
21	Annex II. C – Sub-Saharan Africa (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;
22	Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (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;
23	Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (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;
24	Annex II.F – Global (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 respecting , 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.

To see the full list of amendments suggested by our network, please visit:

<https://qfmd.info/h-content/uploads/2026/04/GEI-Regulation-Legislative-Amendments-Table-EUMediaAdvGroup-AM-Justification.pdf>