

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

Comments and amendments to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Development's DRAFT REPORT on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Global Europe

13 May 2026

This document compiles the joint position and recommendations developed by a network of organisations active in journalism support, media development, media freedom, and the broader human rights ecosystem, collectively constituting the **EU Media Advocacy Group**.

Contents

Introduction.....	3
What is missing.....	4
Recommendations and amendments to the Draft Report:.....	5
<u>Core Messages: Why supporting independent, public-interest media and journalism matters to the EU Global Agenda.....</u>	6
1. Independent, public interest media and journalism are prerequisites to deliver EU global objectives.....	6
2. The collapse of information ecosystems is a systemic risk to EU interests.....	6
3. EU commitments will fall short without funding and policy alignments.....	7
Suggested amendments and Justifications.....	8
1. Amendments to the Objectives, Budget, Principles and Implementation of the proposed Global Europe Regulation.....	8
Amendments, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7: Articles 4, 6, 9, 10, 14 and 23.....	8
Amendments 8, 9a, 9b and 9c: Additions to European’s Parliament Draft Report AM 95 (Article 28a) and AM 106 (Annex II. A).....	12
Amendments 10 and 11: Recitals 27 and 41.....	21
2. 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.....	24
Amendment 12: Cross-regional dedicated support for media and information integrity.....	25
Amendments 13, 14 and 15: Information integrity, human rights and resilient information ecosystems.....	25
Amendments 16, 17 and 18: Supporting independent media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools.....	27
Amendment 19: Supporting independent media as a key pillar to promote peace, stability and security.....	28
3. 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.....	29
Amendment 20: Support to investigative journalism and independent media.....	30
4. 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.....	31
Amendments 21 and 22: Public-interest, accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital and communications infrastructure.....	31
Amendments 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28: Digital development in compliance with international human rights law.....	32

Introduction

We welcome the [draft report](#) submitted by the rapporteurs as it upholds core EU values in external action, such as democracy, human rights and respect to international law. Among the draft report, we positively welcome:

- **AM 9:** for rooting EU's external action on international human rights law
- **AM 33 and 34:** as they include explicit references to programmes focused on human development, and promotion and protection of human rights, rule of law and democracy.
- **AM 42 and 48:** as they recognise the cross-cutting nature of horizontal priorities and ensure a 30% minimum expenditure to these priorities under each geographic pillar; an addition that improves predictability for human rights, democracy and civil society support.
- **AM 66:** we see a great value in ensuring dedicated funding for civil society organisations to ensure its participation in international policies and to perform their role as independent development and governance actors.
- **AM 95:** we welcome the amendment anchoring the Global Gateway to the objectives and principles set in the Global Europe Regulation.
- **AM 105:** We welcome the addition of a new Annex II.A, setting common specific objectives for all geographic pillars. This addition ensures a degree of predictability for policy priorities that are essential to the effectiveness of the EU's external action, such as the support to independent, public interest media and journalism and resilient information ecosystems.

While we also welcome additions **under amendments 15, 18, 36, 49, 72, 95 and 105**, we believe there are still ways in which the language can be strengthened in order to **recognise media and journalism support and information integrity**, not only as a strategic policy priority, but also to **operationalise the Parliament's enhanced position on democracy and funding architecture for the Global Europe Instrument**.

What is missing

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 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.**

Despite the important progress, the European Parliament Draft Report:

- Does not explicitly **recognise media and journalism as a strategic priority to deliver EU's global objectives.**
- Fails to acknowledge the **cross-cutting nature of public information ecosystems, in addressing today's evolving challenges.** While it is crucial to recognise independent journalism and media as a pillar to democracy, **it is essential to expand the position further to underscore that resilient, public-interest information ecosystems are essential to address increasing fragility, conflict and information manipulation.**
- Hence, **the regulation needs to ensure support to independent media and journalism to fulfil their indispensable role across:**
 - crisis, conflict and emergency prevention, response, and recovery;
 - stability, peace, and resilience;
 - resilient, sustainable, secure and human rights-respecting digital and communications infrastructure;
 - economic development, investment and trade.

The rapporteurs have significantly strengthened the Global Europe Instrument on key areas such as democracy, funding predictability and resilience.

To make this framework effective in practice and strengthen the EU's external action strategic impact, independent media and journalism, and resilient public information ecosystems must be fully integrated in the Instrument.

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

Recommendations and amendments to the Draft Report:

Our complete list of suggested amendments to the Global Europe Regulation and its Annexes is available in the [following document](#). In this joint position we are prioritising suggested amendments in relation to four priority areas:

Priority area	Relevant Provisions	Technical Amendments	Objective
1. Objectives, Budget, Principles and Implementation of the Global Europe Instrument	Articles 4, 6, 9, 10, 14 and 23 Draft Report AM95 & AM105 Recitals 27, 41	Amendments 1 to 7 Amendments 8 and 9 Amendments 10 and 11	Integrate support to independent media and journalism as an infrastructure for stability, and as such 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 12 to 20	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 20	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 21 to 28	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.

Core Messages: 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, public-interest 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. These spaces must 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 people's 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 stability and 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

- As mentioned above, the proposed regulation establishing Global Europe reaffirms² **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 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 above](#).**

² Commitments are reaffirmed in recital 42 of the proposed regulation, as well as in the explanatory memorandum ([COM/2025/551 final](#))

Suggested amendments and Justifications

1. Amendments to the Objectives, Budget, Principles and Implementation 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, 5, 6 and 7: Articles 4, 6, 9, 10, 14 and 23

AM num.	Proposal Ref.	EP Draft Report	Technical Amendment
1	Art. 4 – Objectives of the instrument (1) (a)	AM 36 (a) to uphold and promote the Union's values, principles 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, 21 TEU, and Article 208 TFEU, thus contributing to the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty, to consolidating, supporting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and the principles of international law;	(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 and Article 208 TFEU, 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, and the principles of international law; to advancing sustainable development and the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss; to addressing irregular migration and forced displacement, including their root causes;

2	Art. 6 – Budget paragraph 5	<p>AM 49</p> <p>5. At least 93% of the expenditure under this Instrument shall fulfil the criteria for ODA (the 'ODA target'), thus contributing to ODA collective commitments, including towards least developed countries. At least 20% of ODA expenditure under the Instrument shall be allocated to fragile and conflict-affected situations and least developed countries. At least 20 % of all ODA actions funded under the Instrument shall contribute to social inclusion and human development, including basic social services such as health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and social protection, particularly to the most marginalised.</p> <p>If a partner country loses ODA eligibility during the implementation period of the Instrument, expenditure committed in favour of that partner country after the loss of eligibility shall be excluded from the assessment of the ODA target. The expenditure referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be excluded from the assessment of the ODA target.</p>	<p>5. At least 93% of the expenditure under this Instrument shall fulfil the criteria for ODA (the 'ODA target'), thus contributing to ODA collective commitments, including towards least developed countries. At least 20% of ODA expenditure under the Instrument shall be allocated to fragile and conflict-affected situations and least developed countries. At least 20 % of all ODA actions funded under the Instrument shall contribute to social inclusion and human development, including basic social services such as health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and social protection, particularly to the most marginalised, as well as access to reliable and fact-based information, reliable sources, and inclusive contents.</p> <p><i>If a partner country loses ODA eligibility during the implementation period of the Instrument, expenditure committed in favour of that partner country after the loss of eligibility shall be excluded from the assessment of the ODA target. The expenditure referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be excluded from the assessment of the ODA target.</i></p>
3	Article 9 – General Principles (4)		<p>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</p>

			<p>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.</p>
4	Article 9 – General Principles (new)		<p>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.</p>
5	Article 10 – Mainstreaming		<p>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 and sustainable way.</p>

6	<p>Article 14 - Geographic programming principles</p> <p>(2) d</p>	<p>AM 72</p> <p>(d) partner countries and regions' capacity and commitment to promote shared values and principles, including human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, good governance, the fight against corruption, the need to have open civic space, and gender equality, and to support multilateral alliances and a rules-based international system;</p>	<p>(d) partner countries and regions' capacity and commitment to promote shared values and principles, including human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, good governance, the fight against corruption, the need to have open civic space, access to reliable and fact-based public-interest information, and gender equality, and to support multilateral alliances and a rules-based international system;</p>
7	<p>Article 23 – Implementation and forms of Union Funding</p> <p>(4) (b)</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>

Amendments 8, 9a, 9b and 9c: Additions to European's Parliament Draft Report AM 95 (Article 28a) and AM 106 (Annex II. A)

AM num.	Proposal Ref.	EP Draft Report AM 95 and 105	Technical amendment
8	<p>AM 95</p> <p>New</p> <p>Article 28a - The Global Gateway Initiative</p> <p>Paragraph 2</p>	<p><i>2. The Global Gateway Initiative shall remain anchored in the primary objective of EU development cooperation, namely the reduction and long-term eradication of poverty, and shall also demonstrably contribute to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Gateway Initiative shall support an enabling environment for investments that uphold democracy, the rule of law and human rights by dedicating adequate funding in line with the 360-degree approach on topics of democratic resilience, transparency and accountability.</i></p>	<p><i>2. The Global Gateway Initiative shall remain anchored in the primary objective of EU development cooperation, as stated in Article 208 TFEU namely the reduction and long-term eradication of poverty and the compliance with United Nations' commitments, demonstrably contributing to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Gateway Initiative shall support an enabling environment for investments that uphold democracy, the rule of law and human rights by dedicating adequate funding in line with the 360-degree approach on topics of democratic resilience, transparency and accountability.</i></p>
9a	<p>AM 105</p> <p>new</p> <p>Annex II – point - A – Common specific</p>	<p><i>2) Developing, supporting, consolidating and protecting democracy, addressing all aspects of democratic governance, including reinforcing political pluralism, representation, and accountability, reinforcing democracy at all levels, enhancing citizen and civil society participation, supporting credible, inclusive and transparent electoral processes as well as supporting citizen</i></p>	<p><i>2) Developing, supporting, consolidating and protecting democracy, addressing all aspects of democratic governance, including reinforcing political pluralism, representation, and accountability, reinforcing democracy at all levels, enhancing citizen and civil society participation, supporting credible, inclusive and transparent electoral processes as well as supporting citizen capacity in monitoring democratic</i></p>

	<p>objectives for all geographic pillars</p> <p>1. Human Rights and Democracy</p>	<p>capacity in monitoring democratic and electoral systems, through the support to domestic citizen election observation organisations and their regional networks. Democracy shall be strengthened by upholding the main pillars of democratic systems, democratic norms and principles, free, independent and pluralistic media, both online and offline, internet freedom, the fight against censorship, accountable and inclusive institutions, including parliaments and political parties, and the fight against corruption.</p> <p>Election observation shall play a full part in the wider support for the democratic processes. Within this context, EU election observation shall continue to be a major component of the programme as well as the follow-up to recommendations of EU election observation missions.</p>	<p>and electoral systems, through the support to domestic citizen election observation organisations and their regional networks. Democracy shall be strengthened by upholding the main pillars of democratic systems, democratic norms and principles, free, independent and pluralistic media, both online and offline, internet freedom, the fight against censorship, accountable and inclusive institutions, including parliaments and political parties, and the fight against corruption, acknowledging the crucial role of an independent and public-interest information ecosystem to enable citizens to fulfill their democratic rights, and enable fair, informed and just elections and prevent foreign interference to affect in electoral and other democratic processes. Election observation shall play a full part in the wider support for the democratic processes. Within this context, EU election observation shall continue to be a major component of the programme as well as the follow-up to recommendations of EU election observation missions.</p>
<p>9b</p>	<p>AM 105 new Annex II – point - A – Common specific objectives for all geographic</p>	<p>1) Inclusive, participatory, empowered and independent civil society and democratic space in partner countries</p> <p>(a) Creating an enabling and accessible environment for citizen participation and civil society action, including through foundations by supporting active civil society participation in</p>	<p>1) Inclusive, participatory, empowered and independent civil society and democratic space in partner countries</p> <p>(a) Creating an enabling and accessible environment for citizen participation and civil society action, including through foundations by supporting active civil society participation in</p>

<p><i>pillars</i></p> <p>2. Support to Civil Society Organisations</p>	<p><i>policy dialogues and the consolidation of dialogue platforms for non-state actors;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Supporting and building the capacity of civil society organisations, and foundations, to act as both actors of development and good governance in their own right;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Capacity building for civil society organisations for their support of vulnerable and marginalised groups by providing basic social services such as health - including nutrition, education, social protection, and access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene;</i></p> <p><i>(d) Supporting and empowering women's organisations and other relevant organisations working on gender equality as well as women human rights defenders to have the opportunity to work and be protected against threats and violence;</i></p> <p><i>(e) Increasing the capacity of civil society networks, platforms and alliances in partner countries;</i></p> <p><i>(f) Enabling civil society to carry out their work, through, inter alia, capacity building, coordination and institutional strengthening for civil society organisations, taking into account the importance of enabling space for their actions and access to funding, including to engage within their organisations and between different types of stakeholders. Fostering</i></p>	<p><i>policy dialogues and the consolidation of dialogue platforms for non-state actors;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Supporting and building the capacity of civil society organisations, including independent, public-interest media and journalism organisations, and foundations, to act as both actors of development and good governance in their own right;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Capacity building for civil society organisations for their support of vulnerable and marginalised groups by providing basic social services such as health - including nutrition, education, social protection, and access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene;</i></p> <p><i>(d) Supporting and empowering women's organisations and other relevant organisations working on gender equality as well as women human rights defenders to have the opportunity to work and be protected against threats and violence;</i></p> <p><i>(e) Increasing the capacity of civil society networks, platforms and alliances in partner countries;</i></p> <p><i>(f) Enabling civil society to carry out their work, through, inter alia, capacity building, coordination and institutional strengthening for civil society organisations, taking into account the importance of enabling space for their actions and access to funding, including to engage within their</i></p>
---	--	--

dialogue between civil society organisations and governments on public policy.

2) Inclusive and open dialogue with and between civil society actors

(a) Promoting inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue fora, including interaction and coordination between citizens, civil society, local authorities, Member States, partner countries, the private sector and other key development stakeholders;

(b) Enabling cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience between and with civil society actors domestically and internationally;

(c) Fostering cooperation and partnerships of civil society organisations with international intergovernmental organisations, including capacity building aimed at promoting and monitoring the implementation of international and regional instruments, including those concerning human rights, justice, the rule of law and democracy;

(d) Ensuring a substantive and continued structured dialogue and partnerships with the Union.

organisations and between different types of stakeholders. Fostering dialogue between civil society organisations and governments on public policy.

fa) 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."

2) Inclusive and open dialogue with and between civil society actors

(a) Promoting inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue fora, including interaction and coordination between citizens, civil society, media and journalism organisations, local authorities, Member States, partner countries, the private sector and other key development stakeholders;

(b) Enabling cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience between and with civil society actors domestically and internationally;

3) Awareness, understanding, knowledge and engagement of European citizens regarding development issues

(a) Empowering people to increase their engagement on development issues and the SDGs, including through raising public awareness, promoting formal, informal and non-formal education for development, especially among youth, and promoting knowledge sharing between the relevant actors, focusing on the Union Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries;

(b) Mobilising public support in the Union, candidate countries and potential candidates for sustainable and inclusive development strategies, including poverty reduction, in partner countries.

(c) Fostering cooperation and partnerships of civil society organisations with international intergovernmental organisations, including capacity building aimed at promoting and monitoring the implementation of international and regional instruments, including those concerning human rights, justice, the rule of law and democracy;

(d) Ensuring a substantive and continued structured dialogue and partnerships with the Union.

3) Awareness, understanding, knowledge and engagement of European citizens regarding development issues

(a) Empowering people to increase their engagement on development issues and the SDGs, including through access to reliable, fact-based, public-interest information, raising public awareness, promoting formal, informal and non-formal education for development, especially among youth, and promoting knowledge sharing between the relevant actors, focusing on the Union Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries;

(b) Mobilising public support in the Union, candidate countries and potential candidates for sustainable and inclusive development strategies, including poverty reduction, in partner countries.

<p>9c</p>	<p>AM 105 new Annex II – point - A – Common specific objectives for all geographic pillars 3. Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention</p>	<p>1) Assistance for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness</p> <p><i>The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance covering support for conflict-sensitive measures aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of the partners to analyse risks, prevent conflict, build peace and address pre- and post-crisis needs in close coordination with the UN and other international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and State, civil society and local authorities actors, in relation to their efforts mainly in the following areas, including specific attention to gender equality, ensuring the effective participation and empowerment of women and youth:</i></p> <p><i>(a) early warning and conflict-sensitive risk analysis in policy-making and the implementation of policy;</i></p> <p><i>(b) facilitation and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation measures, including at community level, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions, especially with a view to the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity;</i></p>	<p>1) Assistance for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness</p> <p><i>The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance covering support for conflict-sensitive measures aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of the partners to analyse risks, prevent conflict, build peace and address pre- and post-crisis needs in close coordination with the UN and other international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and State, civil society, local public-interest media and journalism organisations, and local authorities actors, in relation to their efforts mainly in the following areas, including specific attention to gender equality, ensuring the effective participation and empowerment of women and youth:</i></p> <p><i>(a) early warning and conflict-sensitive risk analysis in policy-making and the implementation of policy;</i></p> <p><i>(b) facilitation and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation measures, including at community level, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions, especially with a view to</i></p>

(c) conflict prevention;

(d) strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian stabilisation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions;

(e) improving post-conflict recovery as well as post-disaster recovery, with relevance to the political and security situation;

(f) supporting stabilisation, safety of individuals and human security restoration measures, including mine action, demining and transitional justice in line with relevant multilateral agreements;

(g) supporting peacebuilding and statebuilding actions, involving, where appropriate, civil society organisations, states and international organisations, as well as strengthening state-society relations;

(h) contributing to the further development of structural dialogue on peacebuilding issues at various levels, between civil society and partner countries, and with the Union;

(i) crisis response and preparedness;

(j) curbing the use of natural resources to finance conflicts, and supporting compliance by stakeholders with initiatives such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and

the prevention of genocide and crimes against humanity;

(c) conflict prevention;

(d) strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian stabilisation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions;

(e) improving post-conflict recovery as well as post-disaster recovery, with relevance to the political and security situation;

(f) supporting stabilisation, safety of individuals and human security restoration measures, including mine action, demining and transitional justice in line with relevant multilateral agreements;

(g) supporting peacebuilding and statebuilding actions, involving, where appropriate, civil society organisations, states and international organisations, as well as strengthening state-society relations;

(h) contributing to the further development of structural dialogue on peacebuilding issues at various levels, between civil society and partner countries, and with the Union;

(i) crisis response and preparedness;

(j) curbing the use of natural resources to finance conflicts, and supporting compliance by

including legal acts such as Regulation (EU) 2017/821, especially as regards the implementation of efficient domestic controls over the production of, and trade in, natural resources;

(k) supporting actions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, in particular through implementation of UNSCRs 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015) as well as participation and representation of women and youth in formal and informal peace processes;

(l) promoting a culture of non-violence, including by supporting formal, informal and non-formal peace education;

m) supporting actions strengthening the resilience of states, societies, communities and individuals, including resilience assessments designed to identify the endogenous capacities within societies that allow them to withstand, adapt to and quickly recover from pressures and shocks;

(n) supporting international criminal tribunals and ad hoc national tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, transitional justice and other mechanisms for the legal settlement of human rights claims and the assertion and adjudication of property rights;

stakeholders with initiatives such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and including legal acts such as Regulation (EU) 2017/821, especially as regards the implementation of efficient domestic controls over the production of, and trade in, natural resources;

(k) supporting actions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, in particular through implementation of UNSCRs 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015) as well as participation and representation of women and youth in formal and informal peace processes;

(l) promoting a culture of non-violence, including by supporting formal, informal and non-formal peace education;

m) supporting actions strengthening the resilience of states, societies, communities and individuals, including resilience assessments designed to identify the endogenous capacities within societies that allow them to withstand, adapt to and quickly recover from pressures and shocks;

(n) supporting international criminal tribunals and ad hoc national tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, transitional justice and other mechanisms for the legal settlement of human rights claims and the assertion and adjudication of property rights;

(p) supporting know-how transfer, the exchange of information and best practices, risk or threat

(o) supporting measures to combat the illicit use of, and access to, firearms, small arms and light weapons;

(p) supporting know-how transfer, the exchange of information and best practices, risk or threat assessment, research and analysis, early warning systems, training and service delivery.

2) Assistance in addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats

The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance to support partners' efforts and Union actions addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats mainly in the following areas:

(a) threats to law and order, and to the security and safety of individuals including terrorism, radicalisation leading to violent extremism, organised crime, cyber-crime, hybrid threats, illicit trafficking, trade and transit; in particular strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial and civil authorities involved in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, including cyber-crime;

(b) threats to public spaces, critical infrastructure, including international transport, including passenger and freight traffic, energy operations and energy distribution, cybersecurity;

assessment, research and analysis, early warning systems, training and service delivery.

New (pa) supporting independent, public-interest local media and journalism 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 timely, fact-based and public-interest information before, during and after a crisis;

2) Assistance in addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats

The Union shall provide technical and financial assistance to support partners' efforts and Union actions addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats mainly in the following areas:

(a) threats to law and order, and to the security and safety of individuals including terrorism, radicalisation leading to violent extremism, organised crime, cyber-crime, hybrid threats, illicit trafficking, trade and transit; in particular strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial and civil authorities involved in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, including cyber-crime;

(b) threats to public spaces, critical infrastructure, including international transport, including

(c) threats to public health, including sudden epidemics with a potential transnational impact;

(d) threats to environmental stability, maritime security threats, threats having a potentially destabilising impact on peace and security, deriving from climate change impacts;

(e) mitigation against risks, whether of an intentional, accidental or natural origin, related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or agents and risks to related installations or sites, or explosive remnants of wars and conflicts.

Priority shall be given to trans-regional cooperation involving two or more third countries which have demonstrated a clear political will to address the aforementioned threats.

passenger and freight traffic, energy operations and energy distribution, cybersecurity;

(c) threats to public health, including sudden epidemics with a potential transnational impact;

(d) threats to environmental stability, maritime security threats, threats having a potentially destabilising impact on peace and security, deriving from climate change impacts;

(da) threats to the information ecosystem, leading to the erosion of public trust, polarisation and destabilising democracy and fundamental rights, including threats to media freedom, pluralism, viability and independence.

(e) mitigation against risks, whether of an intentional, accidental or natural origin, related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or agents and risks to related installations or sites, or explosive remnants of wars and conflicts.

Priority shall be given to trans-regional cooperation involving two or more third countries which have demonstrated a clear political will to address the aforementioned threats.

Amendments 10 and 11: Recitals 27 and 41

AM num.	Proposal Ref.	Commission Proposal Text	EP Draft Report	Technical Amendment
10	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 supporting democratic institutions and independent oversight bodies and actors demonstrably committed to democratic values, transparency and accountability, and 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. Union support should exclude entities linked to foreign interference or actions undermining Union fundamental values and principles. Support should be differentiated based on the credibility of reform efforts and the accountability of partner institutions.</p>	<p>27) The Instrument should strengthen democratic resilience in partner countries, including by supporting democratic institutions and independent oversight bodies and actors demonstrably committed to democratic values, transparency and accountability, and 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. Union support should exclude entities linked to foreign interference or actions undermining Union fundamental values and principles. Support should be differentiated based on the credibility of reform efforts and the accountability of partner institutions.</p>

11	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. To increase the ability of the Union to respond to unforeseen needs and adapt its partnerships to emerging priorities, building on the experience of the European Development Funds and Regulation (EU) 2021/947, an amount should be left unallocated as an</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 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. To increase the ability of the Union to respond to unforeseen needs and adapt its partnerships to emerging priorities, building on the experience of the European Development Funds and Regulation (EU) 2021/947, an amount should be left unallocated as an emerging challenges and priorities cushion. It should be available to provide transitional support to actors in cases of democratic openings and to address situations of democratic backsliding, and should be mobilised in accordance with the procedures established in this Regulation. Therefore, the emerging challenges and priorities cushion should in particular guarantee adequate resources for a rapid response funding tool for support to civil society organisations, including independent media, in situations of</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. To increase the ability of the Union to respond to unforeseen needs and adapt its partnerships to emerging priorities, building on the experience of the European Development Funds and Regulation (EU) 2021/947, an amount should be left unallocated as an emerging challenges and priorities cushion. It should be available to provide transitional support to actors in cases of democratic openings and to address situations of democratic backsliding, and should be mobilised in accordance with the procedures established in this Regulation. Therefore, the emerging challenges and priorities cushion should in particular guarantee adequate resources for a rapid response funding tool for support to</p>
----	------------	--	--	---

		<p><i>emerging challenges and priorities cushion. It should be mobilised in accordance with the procedures established in this Regulation.</i></p>	<p><i>rapid backsliding of democracy and rule of law or of fast-increasing shifts towards authoritarianism and the shrinking of civic space in partner countries.</i></p>	<p><i>civil society organisations, including independent media, in situations of rapid backsliding of democracy and rule of law or of fast-increasing shifts towards authoritarianism and the shrinking of civic space in partner countries.</i></p>
--	--	--	--	---

2. 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 12: Cross-regional dedicated support for media and information integrity

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
12	Annex II.A – Europe (1) j) Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf	<i>new</i>	Promoting, protecting and supporting freedom of expression and information integrity by resourcing free, independent,

	<p>(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>		<p>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 13, 14 and 15: Information integrity, human rights and resilient information ecosystems.

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
13	<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><i>new</i></p>	<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>

	Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (3) fa)		
14	Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (3) b)	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;	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;
15	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 16, 17 and 18: Supporting independent media as a key infrastructure of the crisis prevention and response tools

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
---------	--------------------	--------------------------	---------------------

16	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;
17	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;
18	Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (2) aa) Annex II.F – Global (4) aa)	new	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 19: Supporting independent media as a key pillar to promote peace, stability and security.

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
19	<p>Annex II.A – Europe (2) ea)</p> <p>Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (2) ca)</p> <p>Annex II.C – Sub-Saharan Africa (6) db)</p> <p>Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (6) cb)</p> <p>Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (3) ea)</p> <p>Annex II.F – Global 4 fa)</p>	<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

3. 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 20: Support to investigative journalism and independent media

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
20	<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>	new	<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>

4. 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 21 and 22: Public-interest, accessible, affordable, inclusive, sustainable, safe and secure digital and communications infrastructure

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
21	Annex II.A – Europe (2) ma) Annex II. B - Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (4) ea) Annex II. C – Sub-Saharan Africa (1) ja)	<i>new</i>	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

	<p>Annex II.D – Asia and the Pacific (1) ea)</p> <p>Annex II.E – Americas and the Caribbean (1) ha)</p>		<p>global governance; and ensuring artificial intelligence systems and tools work in the public interest and rely on reliable fact-based information;</p>
22	<p>Annex II.F – Global (2) c)</p>	<p>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;</p>	<p>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.</p>

Amendments 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28: Digital development in compliance with international human rights law.

AM num.	Proposal Reference	Commission Proposal Text	Technical Amendment
23	<p>Annex II. A – Europe (2) m)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>(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</p>

		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;	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;
24	Annex II. B – Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (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.
25	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;

26	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;
27	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;
28	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/2026/05/MFF-GEI-Regulation-EUMediaAdvGroup-Amendments-Justification.pdf>