European News Media Forum on Safety of Journalists

23 March 2021 - 25 March 2021

As announced in the European Democracy Action Plan, the Commission will adopt this year a Recommendation to the Member States on safety of journalists. To gather input for the Recommendation, the Commission is organising a structured dialogue within the European News Media Forum on 23-25 March 2021. The Forum will be attended by a wide range of stakeholders, including journalists and their associations, news media companies, representatives of media councils, as well as representatives of the Member States and their regulatory authorities.
The Recommendation will seek to ensure better and targeted implementation of a number of requirements set out in the Council of Europe’s Recommendation on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors. Considering the growing digital threats that media professionals are facing, the Recommendation will also address the online dimension of journalists’ safety. Recognising the fact that female journalists are particularly exposed to attacks, the Recommendation will pay specific attention to gender-based threats.

The Forum will be organised in four modules, corresponding to the main aspects of journalists’ safety (unrestrained operation of journalists and addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the journalistic community, physical safety of journalists, online threats and digital empowerment, gender-based attacks and supporting journalists representing minorities).

Discussion papers will guide the debate at the Forum. Each section of the papers provides a short problem description and proposes potential actions. The papers also include guiding questions to be addressed during the relevant modules of the Forum.

DG Connect invites all interested parties to provide targeted written contributions addressing the questions included in the discussion papers. They should be sent no later than 9 April 2021 by email to the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect)

More information

- Agenda of the European News Media Forum
- Discussion papers on safety of journalists
- European Democracy Action Plan

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Between 23-25 March 2021, the Commission organised a structured dialogue on safety of journalists within the first edition of the European News Media Forum.

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