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## **Diana Riba: “Let's be clear: Press freedom in Europe is in danger.”**

EFA MEP Diana Riba intervened in plenary in the Commission report on the situation of journalists and the implications of the rule of law and called for a stronger Anti-SLAPP Directive and a Media Freedom Act.

Diana Riba, the shadow rapporteur for the Anti-SLAPP directive and the Media Freedom act, made the connection between the media and democracy to highlight the importance and necessity of having a healthy media that can inform the citizens unbiasedly.

*"When journalism is at risk, so is public debate and democracy itself."* She said

MEP Riba i Giner, explained the worrying increase in the numbers of European countries where freedom of expression is declining as they experience an alarming rise in hate speech at the same time.

*"The latest Media Pluralism Monitor reports a growing number of complaints against freedom of expression in countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Malta, Romania and Spain and reports a generalised atmosphere of increasing threats and hate speech. Precisely in Spain, the report warns of the high risk to the right to information and the plurality of the market."* She said.

*"Let's be clear: Press freedom in Europe is in danger."* She added.

The Catalan MEP took the opportunity to pay tribute to Greek journalists Giorgos Karaivaz who was murdered in April 2021, and Peter R. de Vries, a Dutch reporter, killed in July of the same year. MEP

Riba i Giner had previously paid her respects to journalists Daphne Caruana Galizia, who was also murdered in Malta in 2017.

*"Media monopolies and media directly captured by states; journalists are becoming victims of cyber espionage or even being murdered, like Giorgos Karaivaz and Peter R. de Vries in 2021." She said.*

**Diana Riba, the shadow rapporteur for the Anti-SLAPP directive and the Media Freedom act and EFA MEP, concluded:**

*"Strengthening the Anti-SLAPP Directive and the Media Freedom Act is a priority. Because there is no democracy without an information and media context based on public and democratic values that are intersectional, sustainable and inclusive."*

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### **Responsible MEPs**



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