



**Dimitrios Papadimoulis**

Vice-President of the European Parliament

To the attention of:

**Ms. Roberta Metsola**

President of the European Parliament

cc:

**Mr. Manfred Weber**

President of the EPP Political Group in the European Parliament

**Ms. Iratxe García Pérez**

President of the S&D Political Group in the European Parliament

**Mr. Stéphane Séjourné**

President of the Renew Europe Political Group in the European Parliament

**Ms. Ska Keller and Mr. Philippe Lamberts**

Co-Presidents of the Greens/EFA Political Group in the European Parliament

**Mr. Ryszard Legutko and Mr. Raffaele Fitto**

Co-Presidents of the ECR Political Group in the European Parliament

**Ms. Manon Aubry and Mr. Martin Schirdewan**

Co-Presidents of the GUE/NGL Political Group in the European Parliament

**Mr. Klaus Welle**

Secretary-General of the European Parliament

Brussels, 18 May 2022

**Subject: Deletion of the Parliament's publication on the situation of press freedom in the Member States**

Dear President Metsola,

Dear Roberta,

As member of the EP Bureau and the WG on Information and Communication Policy, I would like to bring to your attention that the Parliament's publication on the situation of press freedom in the Member States based on the ratings of *the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) 2022 World*

*Press Freedom Index : a new era of polarisation*, was suddenly and unjustifiably deleted from the Parliament's official site and twitter account.

I strongly regret this unacceptable and unrepresented act of self-censorship of the Parliament, in such an important matter. Freedom of press and rule of law are fundamental principles and European values that our House should fully protect and support, especially in the current very challenging period for Europe and the world.

The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is a well-know, independent and reliable international organisation, with a long-lasting and productive cooperation with the Commission and the Parliament. Its reports are widely utilised by international organisations, governments and civil society alike. Its 2022 World Press Freedom Index has been already widely circulated, as a reliable reference to the current immense challenges in press freedom matters in the Member States. The Parliament should be the front-runner and concretely support freedom of press and rule of law and encourage these independent initiatives and reports.

I am sure that you take all necessary actions for re-uploading the above-mentioned publication in the official site and twitter of the Parliament and, equally importantly, that you will unveil those responsible for this unacceptable and regrettable act, which degrades and offends the credibility and objectivity of our House.

Yours sincerely,



Dimitrios Papadimoulis