European Parliament

Dear Vice President Jourová,

I am writing to bring to your attention a concerted effort to muzzle the press by the Maltese Government, a case condemned by a vast majority in the European Parliament last October (PA_TA(2022)0371).

The Shift News, an investigative journalism organisation, has been subject to over 40 court cases filed in concert by the Maltese Government, represented in total by some 80 lawyers against one newsroom. The vast majority of cases are still pending, exerting undue strain on the newsroom's limited time and resources.

A swathe of international press NGOs, including the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF), have condemned the Maltese Government for its contempt of the press and of freedom of information, calling it to drop all its cases against the Shift News, a call echoed by the European Parliament.

It is shocking that the Maltese Government is persisting in its baseless attempt to stifle the press from doing its job in the public interest, without so much as masking its blatant efforts to keep the public in the dark.

I trust that you will take heed of The Shift News' case and take any action as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,



David Casa
Head of National Delegation (EPP-MT)
Member of the European Parliament