

Joint Statement on the Support for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Brussels, 18. 3. 2025

We express our deep concern over the financial challenges currently faced by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), as reported in recent news.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has played a vital role in providing independent, unbiased, and fact-based information to citizens, particularly in regions where freedom of the press is under threat. Throughout the Cold War, it served as a crucial source of trustworthy news for audiences behind the Iron Curtain, playing a key role in many of our countries' histories.

Today, RFE/RL continues to provide trusted, independent news to tens of millions in regions where free press is restricted or absent. In doing so, it helps to promote democratic values and strengthens our collective response to disinformation and authoritarian propaganda. This vital work builds on its historic role as a force for democracy, human rights, and freedom of expression – values at the core of the European Union. By countering foreign malign influence and reinforcing democratic resilience, RFE/RL contributes to safeguarding European security and its elimination would be a gift to Europe's adversaries.

In light of this situation, we declare our readiness to work together to find and secure appropriate financial resources that will allow RFE/RL to continue its important mission. European funding would ensure the stability of this key media institution and enable it to carry on providing critical and independent reporting.

We call on the relevant European institutions and member states to join forces in establishing sustainable financial support for RFE/RL and other independent media, thereby safeguarding media freedom and democracy in Europe and beyond.

The European Union stands united in protecting press freedom and supporting journalists who serve the public interest.

Signed,

Martin Dvořák

Minister for European Affairs
Czechia

Claudia Plakolm

Minister for Europe, Integration and Family
Austria

Maxime Prévot

Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs
and Development Cooperation
Belgium

Margus Tsahkna

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Estonia

Anna Lührmann

Minister of State for Europe and Climate
Germany

Artjoms Uršulskis

Parliamentary Secretary
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Latvia

Sigitas Mitkus

Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania

Marko Štucin

State Secretary for European and political
affairs, international law and the protection
of interests
Slovenia

Caspar Veldkamp

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands

Jessica Rosencrantz

Minister for EU Affairs
Sweden

Agence Europe

Agence Europe