

To Mr. Stefan Schennah,  
PACE's General Rapporteur on media freedom and safety of journalists

Dear Mr. Stefan Schennah,

In my capacity as member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, member of the ALDE group, and member of the Monitoring Committee of PACE, I would like to raise your attention to the current decision of the Romanian Government to distribute a "support fund" amounting 42.000.000 euros to the both national and local Romanian media in the coming four months, consisting in fact in the covering advertisement costs for an awareness campaign on the novel coronavirus crisis.

The timing of this campaign coincides with the schedule of both the local and the national elections: therefore the suspicion of masked bribery on behalf of the Government in an attempt of buying influence on the Romanian media, already affected by the current crisis and under the spell of media moguls supported by Romanian politicians.

In my opinion, in my capacity as vicepresident of Save Romania Union, this action will affect the independence of Romanian media and this will have consequences on Romanian democracy in an electoral context.

By writing this letter I would like to ask you for a point of view on the beforementioned decision of the Romanian Government.

Kind regards,

Iulian Bulai

Member of the Alde Group (PACE)  
(Monitoring Committee)  
Vicepresident of Save Romania Union

