<u>Statement of the Spokesperson on the recent suspension of news m</u>

On 30 June the Guinea Bissau government announced the suspension of activities of RDP-Africa and RPT-Africa in Guinea Bissau.

The freedom of expression and the access to information by citizens are an essential part of accountable governance. Particularly in periods of political tension, the unhindered work of media are essential for the constructive debate that strengthens society.

It is at the core of EU values and external action. It is also in accordance with the Constitution of Guinea Bissau and its international commitments on Human Rights."