



**For the attention of:**

*Ms. Delphine Ernotte-Cunci, President of the European Broadcasting Union*

*Mr Noel Curran, Director General of European Broadcasting Union*

*Ms. Ana Maria Bordas, Chair of the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group*

*Members of the Executive Committee of the European Broadcasting Union*

*Brussels, 29 May 2025*

***Dear Ms. Delphine Ernotte-Cunci, Mr Curran, Ms. Ana Maria Bordas, and the Executive Committee of the European Broadcasting Union,***

*Following the conclusion of the 69th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest, we, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, write to you with renewed apprehension regarding increasing concerns of irregularities tied to the 2025 contest.*

*While the Eurovision Song Contest is a celebration of culture and music, not politics, it is clear that systemic issues surrounding transparency, fairness, and undue influence now threaten the very values the EBU claims to hold up: independence, impartiality, and public trust. Both members of the public and several national broadcasters have already raised serious concerns regarding possible voting manipulation and the use of state-run promotional infrastructure in support of this year's participating act from Israel.*

*We direct your attention to data released by the Flemish public broadcaster (VRT), which revealed sharp, unexplained disparities between viewership and televoting participation in the 2023–2025 period<sup>1</sup>. These trends are not easily explained by organic fluctuations in viewer enthusiasm and warrant further scrutiny. In parallel, Spanish public broadcaster RTVE has officially requested a full audit of its own national televoting due to similar suspicions. This mirrors similar concerns raised by RTV Slovenia following concerns of irregularities in the 2024 contest<sup>2</sup>.*

*The growing pattern of national broadcasters doubting the validity of their own countries' data should be an alarm bell to the EBU. While a certain degree of dissent and criticism is natural*

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<sup>1</sup> jhe. (May 20, 2025). VRT deelt aantal stemmen Belgische televoting. Songfestival. <https://songfestival.be/landen/be/vrt-deelt-aantal-stemmen-belgische-televoting/>

<sup>2</sup> Mazoyer, V. (May 19, 2025). RTVE asks for an audit of the Spanish televote at Eurovision 2025. ESCXtra. <https://escxtra.com/2025/05/19/rve-asks-for-audit-of-spanish-televote/>

*in international competitions such as the Eurovision, the succession of such concerns from multiple countries reflects a genuine credibility crisis. Without full transparency, and necessary change in how the competition operates, Eurovision risks losing the confidence of both its member organizations and its audience.*

*Equally troubling is the revelation that the Israeli Government Advertising Agency (Lapam) was directly involved in orchestrating and funding a cross-platform campaign to promote Israel's 2025 entry<sup>3</sup>. This included Lapam purchasing demographically-targeted digital ads which reached millions of viewers, building on top of 2024's effort which saw direct involvement from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>4</sup>. Such coordinated, state-backed activity raises fundamental concerns about the contestant's neutrality as well as impartiality and fairness.*

*European Broadcasting Union rules explicitly require national broadcasters to remain independent and non-partisan. The claim that the Israeli public broadcaster Kan is such an independent outlet was a key argument in the EBU's response to calls for the expulsion of Israel from the Eurovision Song Contest. An Israeli contestant benefiting from state-sponsored advertising significantly undermines this claim and raises doubts about the non-political character of this year's performance.*

*To protect the credibility of the Eurovision Song Contest and the trust of the European public, we urge the EBU to take the following steps immediately:*

- 1. Release the full voting tallies, broken down by country, voting method (SMS, app, online), round, and contestant, so that independent observers and national broadcasters can verify the validity of the results;***
- 2. Authorize an independent and transparent audit of the 2025 voting process, involving recognized third-party cybersecurity and statistical experts, in cooperation with concerned national broadcasters.***
- 3. Reveal all direct and indirect advertising contracts;***
- 4. Clarify and implement restrictions on government-sponsored promotion of Eurovision entries, including an explicit prohibition of state-directed advertising agencies influencing voting outcomes;***
- 5. Reveal all sponsorship contracts;***

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<sup>3</sup> Bowler, D. and Flannery, M. Israeli government agency paid for adverts targeting Eurovision Song Contest public vote. Eurovision News Spotlight. <https://spotlight.ebu.ch/p/israeli-government-agency-paid-for>

<sup>4</sup> Ynet. (May 12, 2024). <https://www.ynet.co.il/news/article/sykjyhaza> ישראלי מעט הפתעות: אלה המדינות שבהן הקהל נתן 12 נקודות לעדן גולן.

**6. Prepare a detailed analysis of the voting system, and propose necessary changes to the voting system in order to prevent political interference or manipulation.**

*The EBU claims to be a guardian of public service media, founded on the principles of impartiality, accountability, and intercultural dialogue. Failing to address these systemic issues would signal a troubling departure from these ideals and invite further politicization of the contest and erosion of public trust.*

*As one of the core institutions of European cultural cooperation, the continued success of Eurovision relies on the perception that every country, every vote, and every voice is treated equally.*

*We thank you for your comprehensive and timely response.*

*Sincerely,*

*Matjaž NEMEC (S&D, Slovenia)  
Aodhán Ó RÍORDÁIN (S&D, Ireland)  
Rima HASSAN (The Left, France)  
Barry ANDREWS (Renew, Ireland)  
Vicent MARZÀ IBÁÑEZ (Greens/EFA, Spain)  
Ana MIRANDA PAZ (Greens/EFA, Spain)  
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Nikos PAPPAS (NI, Greece)  
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