

Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2022

## MIND THE C-A-P!

### WE NEED TO SAVE THE FINANCING OF FRENCH PUBLIC BROADCASTING!

France's public broadcasters have been forced to cut their budgets for five years in a row. Now, several presidential candidates are saying they want to scrap TV licence fee -or Public Audiovisual Contribution (CAP)- in order to protect people's purchasing power.

➔ **Anyone with a television set in France has to pay the €138 CAP tax each year. It's what helps finance FMM and France's other public broadcasters.**

But the **campaign pledges to cut the CAP seem unfounded** and **no candidate has yet detailed how to fund public service broadcasting** without a licence fee. Scrapping it would not come close to making up for **France's skyrocketing inflation (3.6% in February, the highest since 2008)**. It also masks the **real issues behind declining purchasing power**, which would be better served by **wage increases instead of tax cuts**.

Above and beyond the financial cost, **the fact that the CAP is taxpayer and not government-funded guarantees more independence for France Medias Monde** around the world.

**Changing the way French public broadcasting is financed is even more problematic given the current climate.** The CAP was built to **protect public media companies from haphazard budgeting decisions** that are often taken more from a **political position** than a strategic one. **Scrapping the license fee would leave French public broadcasting at the whim of government budget decisions.**

#### ► **ONE OF THE LOWEST BUDGETS IN EUROPE**

At **€138 per year**, the CAP is among the **lowest public broadcasting licenses in Europe**. Similar contributions come in at **€162 in the UK, €210 in Germany, €334 in Denmark or €394 in Switzerland** where **citizens overwhelmingly voted to keep their public broadcaster** (*Rapport Bergé*).

**France Media Monde gets just €10 per year out of that €138 to fund France 24, RFI and MCD.** That's already **too small of a budget** to finance the **strategic and technical ambitions** that are now **under threat by cutting the license completely**.

**Public broadcasters and in particular FMM have never been more essential.** The CFTC will continue to defend FMM's unique style and spirit, both in France and around the world. **Despite growing budget pressure and politics, we will continue to fight for financing that guarantees FMM's independence.**