

The Chair
Committee on Petitions

D 309416 08.06.2018

Bruselas,
CL/mff/IPOL-COM-PETI D(2018)21606]

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Asunto: Petición n. ° 1024/2017, presentada por Gabriel López Vega, de nacionalidad española, sobre la falta de objetividad en la televisión.

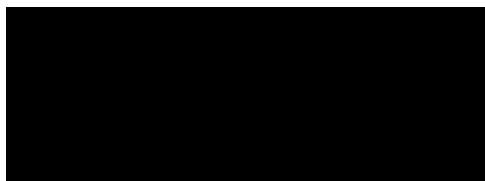
Excelentísimo Sr. Sánchez Domínguez

La Comisión de Peticiones del Parlamento Europeo ha debatido el 16/05/2018 una petición relativa a la supuesta falta de objetividad en los informativos de la televisión española.

Se decidió, tras un animado debate, solicitar información adicional por escrito a la Comisión Europea y trasladarles la preocupación de esta Comisión por la situación que denuncian los peticionarios, así como reiterarles la importancia que tiene para la democracia el pluralismo en los medios de comunicación y en particular en el servicio público de radiotelevisión.

Esta Comisión seguirá examinando la petición tan pronto como disponga de su respuesta y de la información solicitada a la Comisión.

Le saluda atentamente,



Cecilia Wikström
Presidente de la Comisión de Peticiones

Anexo: respuesta de la CE a la petición n 1024/2017



30.5.2018

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 1024/2017 by Gabriel López Vega (Spanish) on the lack of objectivity on Spanish television

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner calls on the EU to take the necessary measures to advance and enforce the principles of objectivity, plurality and impartiality on Spanish State television.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 22 February 2018. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 30 May 2018

Protocol No. 29 on the system of public broadcasting in the Member States, attached to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, recognises the Member States' freedom to define, organise and finance public service broadcasting. Within the limits of the Protocol, Member States are free to determine the form, conditions and modalities of the public funding of their broadcasting systems. At the same time, the Commission considers that public service media is an integral means of ensuring media pluralism, a cornerstone of democratic society.

Media pluralism is part of the right of freedom of expression, enshrined as a fundamental right in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.¹ Pursuant to its Article 51(1), the Charter is addressed to Member States only when they are implementing EU law. This does not appear to be the case in the situation described by the petitioner.

Nevertheless, the Commission supports media pluralism within the remit of its competences.

¹ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

The Commission funds - further to the initiative of the European Parliament - several independent projects in the field of media pluralism and media freedom. One of these projects is the Media Pluralism Monitor (MPM), which is run by the European University Institute and has the objective of highlighting risks to media pluralism in all Member States, including Spain.

In its 2016 report, MPM assessed "medium" risk in Spain with respect to market plurality in general, with "high" risk in the areas of cross-media concentration of ownership and competition enforcement.¹ The Commission expects that MPM will publish its reports for 2017 by the end of the second quarter of 2018.

On 25 May 2016, the Commission presented a proposal² for the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) which requires regulatory authorities in the field of audiovisual media services to be independent and sets out the requirements on such independence that Member States should ensure. The Commission and the co-legislators have recently reached political agreement on a revision of the AVMSD, including provisions concerning the independence of regulatory authorities. It is likely that the negotiations will conclude early June and that the final text will be put before the Parliament and the Council for adoption in the fall of 2018. Once the revised rules are approved by the co-legislators, Member States will have to transpose those requirements into national law.

Conclusion

The Commission will continue to follow developments in Spain relating to public service broadcasting.

¹ <http://cmpf.eui.eu/media-pluralism-monitor/mpm-2016-results/spain/>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/revision-audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd>