Question for written answer E-008161/2014 to the Commission Rule 130 Viviane Reding (PPE)

Subject: Situation in Hungary: respect for fundamental human rights and the free movement of

services

The Hungarian Government's actions in the area of freedom of the press have been heavily criticised. A new so-called 'advertising' tax has been introduced which is targeting RTL. RTL is the last media outlet in Hungary owned by a foreign group and is known for its political neutrality. The measure is not only an attack on the freedom of the press, but also on the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services.

1. In response to questions from Parliament, the Commission committed itself to carrying out a sectorial study in order to discover whether RTL was the victim of indirect discrimination. What is the state of play of this study?

2. The Commission has also committed to monitoring developments as regards fundamental rights in Hungary. Could it state its opinion on how these rights are being respected, particularly as regards the current harassment of NGOs?

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