

**Question for written answer E-000611/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Financing of communications media in the Balkans

As a result of a controversy concerning the accuracy of a report published in the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), the Prime Minister of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, stated that it was funded by the European Union. In particular, he said that the funds came from the European Union Delegation in Belgrade, which is headed up by Michael Davenport.

In his statement Prime Minister Vučić accused the European Union of financing the BIRN with the aim of telling lies in order to debilitate his government.

1. Can the Commission say whether the European Union funds the activities of the BIRN in any way, whether directly or indirectly?
2. If so, is it funded in order to debilitate the present Serbian Government or to promote the activities of other political players in Serbia?