

Question for written answer E-002691/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: Television stations under the control of the Muslim Brotherhood

At a meeting in February 2015 in Cairo, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Egypt appealed to Member State ambassadors to encourage their countries and the EU to assess the number of television stations run by the Muslim Brotherhood broadcasting in Europe and evaluate their editorial output. He noted that the Muslim Brotherhood is a proscribed terrorist organisation in Egypt and a number of other countries, and that the channels he spoke of were, in his view, 'inciting violence and murder in Egypt'.

The channels in question, based in Turkey but broadcasting in Europe via French and Cypriot satellites, are Mekameleen, Egypt Now, Rabaa, Elshark and Elarabi. At a time when the political situation in the Middle East and North Africa is highly unstable and thousands of European citizens are fighting in the ranks of ISIS and other extreme Islamist groups based in these regions, such reports are of great concern.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of these reports and has this issue been raised by the Council or individual Member State governments?
2. Will the Commission launch an investigation into claims that the editorial output of these channels violates the Audiovisual Media Services Directive?