

**Question for written answer E-013007/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Language rights in the EU: the case of Omrop Fryslân

The Dutch Government plans to make severe cuts to its regional broadcasters. It will treat the Frisian-language TV provider Omrop Fryslân in the same way as the country's other regional broadcasters, despite its unique role as the sole provider of Frisian-language TV.

Article 11(1)(c)(ii) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, ratified by the Netherlands, obliges states to facilitate the broadcasting of TV programmes in regional or minority languages. The equal treatment of differing situations violates the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights taken in conjunction with Article 10 thereof. Under Article 9(3) of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the Netherlands must ensure that people belonging to national minorities are able to use their own media.

Broadcasting in regional/minority languages is essential to maintaining the linguistic diversity of the EU. Similar severe cuts are taking place across Europe, including to the Welsh-language television channel S4C.

In the light of the EU's commitment to the protection of regional/minority languages, how will the Commission use its influence to ensure that Omrop Fryslân maintains its autonomy and funding from the Dutch Government, and how will it ensure that there is provision of services in all languages and in all forms of media across the EU?