

**Question for written answer E-001139/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Beatrix von Storch (ECR)

Subject: Media freedom in Europe

Junge Freiheit (JF) is a German weekly available in all regions.

The SPD Minister of the Interior of Lower Saxony, and the publicly-owned TV channel SWR in South-West Germany, have described *Junge Freiheit* as a publication that spreads 'hatred', 'racism' and 'xenophobia', and that it should be regarded as 'socially incendiary'. At the same time, SWR reporters contacted advertisers with JF and urged them to stop advertising there.

In connection with the national media laws in Hungary and Poland, the Commission has called very publicly for the separation of state and media, referring to 'shared European values' and 'current EU law'.

What measures will the Commission now be taking against Germany to halt the attempted intimidation of JF by the SPD government of Lower Saxony and the publicly-owned TV channel SWR, with reference to the separation of state and media in the context of shared European values and current EU law?

Does the Commission take the view that giving financial support for pro-government newspapers while influencing those which criticise the government differs in degree or in substance from the influencing of Polish radio stations by the government there?