

**Question for written answer E-001994/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

María Teresa Giménez Barbat (ALDE) and Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Politicisation of the media in Catalonia

On 29 February 2016, Catalonia's Union of Journalists lodged a complaint with the Council of Europe about the politicisation of the media in Catalonia. This was in response to the recent appointment of Saúl Gordillo as director of Catalunya Ràdio on a proposal from the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) party, and of Jaume Peral as director of Catalonia's TV3 television channel on a proposal from another political party, the Democratic Convergence of Catalonia (CDC). Cases like this jeopardise the freedom and pluralism of the media: principles enshrined in Article 11(2) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Given that one of the main objectives of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive is to safeguard media pluralism, what action is being taken at EU level to promote it, protect it and guarantee that the media are independent from political power within the Member States?

Is the Commission intending to take action with a view to setting up legally binding systems for the selection and appointment of directors and boards of public media organisations in order to ensure they are run independently and transparently, as the European Parliament called for in its resolution on media freedom of 21 May 2013 (P7_TA (2013)0203)?