

**Question for written answer E-004939/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Aid for publications, newspapers and magazines

Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declares certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Article 53 of the Regulation, on aid for culture and heritage conservation, permits aid to be granted to almost all cultural activities with the exception set out in paragraph 10 of that article of press and magazines, regardless of whether they are published in print or electronically.

Recital 72 provides that this exemption is justified on the basis of the 'predominantly commercial character' of press and magazines, owing to 'the higher potential for competition distortions'.

1. Apart from the above reason, why has the Commission banned aid for press and magazines?
2. When drawing up the Regulation, did the Commission take into account the characteristics and funding needs of local publications, publications issued in minority or regional languages or by not-for-profit organisations, and publications dedicated to knowledge-sharing of a non-commercial nature?