

Question for written answer E-008367/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Philippe Juvin (PPE)

Subject: Plight of the Persian-language Euronews channel

At a time when the Middle East is experiencing major upheavals which are having a direct impact on Europe, the Persian-language 'Euronews' TV channel is faced with imminent closure and a switch to an online-only version.

This would severely undermine the channel's ability to achieve its objectives, as internet access in that region remains very limited for the most part.

Against the backdrop of the implementation of the international nuclear deal with Iran and the need to strengthen the relationship between that country and the EU, the channel is an effective means of educating the Iranian people about European values, such as human rights, democracy and gender equality. What is more, it also broadcasts its programmes in Afghanistan. In a call for tenders issued in October 2010, the Commission made a commitment to support the continued broadcasting of Euronews in Persian.

Will the Commission continue to support initiatives designed to keep the Persian-language Euronews channel on the air?