

Question for written answer E-000834/2017/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: VP/HR - Possible suppression of freedom of opinion in Kiev

In September 2016, the Ukrainian Government adopted a bill imposing a ban on the import of books with 'anti-Ukrainian content'. The bill was directed primarily against government-critical literature from Russia. The ban also affects a number of Russian television stations, which are subject to a broadcasting and reception ban. One of the reasons given by the Ukrainian Government for these bans is the alleged incompatibility between the European Convention on Transfrontier Television and Ukrainian law.

1. Does the VP/HR take the view that the bans are consistent with the freedom of opinion and information enshrined in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, a freedom which, according to Article 6(3) TEU, is one of the values underpinning the European Union?
2. If not, what steps can be taken to prevent further infringement of these rights?
3. What view does the VP/HR take of the alleged incompatibility between the provisions of the European Convention on Transfrontier Television and Ukrainian law?