

**Question for written answer E-001831/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Withdrawal from EuroNEWS

A question was tabled recently to the Commission concerning the lack of independence and plurality at the Spanish radio and television station 'Radio Televisión Española' (RTVE), as this contravenes the EU's core democratic values.

For some time now, the Commission has been gradually stepping back from involvement in the European news programme EuroNEWS, which came into being as a publicly owned counterweight to the American CNN chain's international dominance in the news field.

The inclusion of private shareholders compromises the independence of a news medium that, by broadcasting news from Europe to people all around the world, promotes the European Union's fundamental values, contributing significantly thereby to the goal of developing democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

1. Does the Commission not believe that as an independent news channel, EuroNEWS contributes to this goal?
2. Does it not believe that increased private capital and the application of purely commercial criteria, together with cuts to and/or quite simply the ending services in certain languages (Arabic, Farsi, Ukrainian), plus planned job cuts, will have a decisive effect on its independence and jeopardise therefore the attainment of this goal?
3. Will the Commission maintain on the same terms as at present the annual subsidy it grants EuroNEWS and, consequently, its commitment to EuroNEWS remaining independent?