

**Question for written answer E-001565/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Pina Picierno (S&D), Elena Gentile (S&D), Lara Comi (PPE), Daniele Viotti (S&D), Cécile Kashetu Kyenge (S&D), Enrico Gasbarra (S&D), Isabella De Monte (S&D), Sergio Gaetano Cofferati (S&D), Eleonora Forenza (GUE/NGL), Brando Benifei (S&D), Patrizia Toia (S&D), Silvia Costa (S&D) and Raffaele Fitto (ECR)**

Subject: Abolition of funding for Radio Radicale and media pluralism in Italy

Radio Radicale has existed for 42 years and plays a public service role on Italy's telecommunications scene. The Radio Radicale archive has been declared to be of considerable historical interest as it preserves the Italian political and institutional history of the past few decades, making it available through the voices of the key players themselves.

Radio Radicale receives a fee for the broadcasting of parliamentary sessions and a public grant for its information activity of general public interest. Under the last budget law adopted by the Italian Government, the relevant agreement was extended for only six months and, from 1 January 2020, the grant has been completely abolished.

The EU upholds the freedom of expression and information as enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (and Article 10 ECHR) and the limitations to the exercise of those rights are governed by Article 52 of the Charter. The above-mentioned Italian Government decision has, as a result, actually reduced the pluralism of information on Italian radio.

Is the Commission aware of these facts? What (possibly punitive) measures will it take in order to guarantee freedom of information and pluralism in Italy?