

**Question for written answer E-002281/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Excessive powers of the Greek Prime Minister over the media - Allocation of responsibilities for justice and migration policy to the Hellenic Police Force

One of the first decisions taken by the new Greek government, following the national elections of 7.7.2019, has been to place the General Secretariat of Information and Communication, which is responsible for overseeing the media, public broadcasting (ERT) and the Athens News Agency – Macedonian Press Agency, under the immediate authority of the Prime Minister.

Furthermore, Presidential Decree (PD) 81 of 8.7.2019 stipulates that responsibility for the prison system is being transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Citizen Protection, which oversees the police authorities. Also, the same ministry will now also be vested with responsibility for migration policy.

In view of these changes that directly affect the exercise of fundamental rights, the operation of the rule of law and the separation of powers, but also on the basis of existing EU legislation and practice regarding press freedom, will the Commission say:

1. Are there any other EU Member States where media oversight is the direct responsibility of the Prime Minister? If so, in which countries and since when?
2. Are there any Member States in which the same ministry has been entrusted with responsibility for justice, migration policy and public security?