

**Question for written answer P-007928/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Curzio Maltese (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Mediaworks' suspension of the publication of Népszabadság

A few days ago the publisher Mediaworks suspended the publication of Népszabadság, Hungary's leading opposition newspaper. Within the EU legal framework, press freedom is a fundamental right established under Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. This right includes the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. The Media Pluralism Monitor (MPM) 2014 Pilot Implementation for Hungary shows a situation of high risk for media pluralism in the country, which has been identified in 7 legal indicators, the most relevant of which are: Regulatory safeguards for the independence and efficiency of the relevant national authorities; Regulatory safeguards for universal coverage of the media; Regulatory safeguards against high concentration of ownership and/or control in media; Regulatory safeguards for fair, balanced and impartial political reporting in media; Fair and transparent appointment procedures for PSM professionals and management boards; and Regulatory safeguards for independent allocation of financial resources.

How does the Commission intend to enhance the full implementation of the MPM, a monitoring tool that would empower the European institutions to issue warnings about those countries where freedom of the media is most at risk?

How does the Commission intend to sanction those countries not respecting the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights?