

**Question for written answer E-001322/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Katarina Barley (S&D)

Subject: Euronews

Reports from renowned media institutions, such as *Le Monde* and the Hungarian investigative outlet *Direkt36*, revealed that people with close ties to the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán were heavily involved in the purchase of the European news channel Euronews.

Given the importance of Euronews as a central source of information, this raises serious questions about potential interference with media freedom and independent journalism. As part of a Partnership Agreement for the period covering 2021 to 2024, Euronews currently receives annual payments from the Commission. Already back in 2019, the Court of Auditors issued a warning to the Commission for failing to monitor its payments to Euronews. The issues addressed in the specific questions below must be investigated thoroughly.

1. What specific conditions or targets are attached to the annual payments, how are these monitored, and how has the Commission evaluated compliance with the conditions or targets of the Partnership Agreement in recent years?
2. How has the Commission improved the monitoring of its payments in the meantime, and how else does it ensure that Euronews remains free from political interference?
3. In the light of these reports, will the Commission consider a possible application from Euronews for funding in 2025 under the pan-European audiovisual reporting programme?

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