

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3551/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Euronews and multilingualism

Euronews is a consortium of Member State public television broadcasters which has been chosen by the Commission as the main provider of information on Commission activities. There can therefore be no doubt that the Commission has a significant influence over the channel's policy. The channel broadcasts news programmes in seven languages, namely English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. Euronews does not, however, broadcast exactly the same news in each language, and this is not due merely to linguistic differences.

On the basis of what criteria are the languages in which the channel broadcasts selected? Why has Polish been left out, while Russian has been included (as Arabic will be in the near future), despite the fact that Russia is not an EU Member State? Why does the news broadcast in the various languages differ – often significantly – in content?