

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4215/08
by Jules Maaten (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Possible censorship of an independent television channel in China by the European satellite operator Eutelsat

Since 16 June 2008, a few weeks before the Olympic Games, millions of Chinese households have been unable to receive New Tang Dynasty Television (NTDTV) satellite broadcasts; this is one of the few uncensored channels in China and broadcasts, inter alia, the programmes 'Voice of America' and 'Sound of Hope'.

1. Does the Commission know why the European satellite operator Eutelsat has stopped providing millions of Chinese households with NTDTV?
2. Does the Commission regard the fact that Eutelsat is no longer transmitting this channel as censorship and, if so, what steps will it take to ensure that European companies respect the right to freedom of information outside, as well as within, Europe?