

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5758/08
by Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Suspension of NTDTV Television broadcasts to China

With reference to Written Declaration No 86/2008 on restoring NTDTV Television broadcasts to China via Eutelsat, which has been submitted to the European Parliament, and previous questions on the same topic, further information is needed on the alleged technical problem experienced by the operator, Eutelsat Communications.

The technical problem referred to by the satellite operator, which has prevented millions of Chinese from receiving broadcasts by the independent television station NTDTV for several months, is not only an internal matter for China. It should not be forgotten that the European firm Eutelsat, which is taking part in the Galileo Programme, is a non-profit-making organisation, over whose funding the European Parliament has a measure of control. It is also worth noting that the organisation Reporters Without Borders has recorded a conversation between a Chinese Government representative and an employee of the firm Eutelsat which makes it clear that the suspension of NTDTV's broadcasts is a result of political pressure from China.

What measures has the Commission so far taken to restore NTDTV Television broadcasts, thereby giving millions of people access again to their only available source of uncensored information?