

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3440/09
by Marios Matsakis (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Mass media and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation

In Cyprus, pluralism in the mass media and fair play in a free internal market, are in my view being negatively affected and distorted through the existence of the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in its present form. The CBC obtains its budget to a very large extent from public funds and is governed by a Board essentially appointed by political parties on political grounds. These conditions a) give the CBC an unfair advantage over private broadcasting stations, b) use taxpayers' money to advance certain political party policies through a public broadcasting agency and c) exercise censorship of certain politicians, by denying them access to this publicly funded mass medium.

Could the Commission enquire as to the exact status of operation of the CBC and could the Commission let me know whether this operation is consistent with the principles, rules and regulations of the EU? Could the Commission comment on ways of improving matters and making the CBC operation more democratic and less politically motivated and controlled?