

**Question for written answer E-002533/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Hungarian Media Act

The situation in Hungary is giving rise to serious concerns in Europe and at international level following government changes to the Constitution and the adoption of 'cardinal laws', as well as legislative measures, that impose government control over the legislature, the judiciary and the economy, as well as the media. Parliament has adopted three resolutions concerning Hungary, calling for action to avoid a political crisis that could affect the entire European Union. Furthermore, Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs held a hearing¹ on the situation in Hungary on 9 February 2012, in which Hungarian Government representatives also took part.

At the hearing, Hungary's Deputy Prime Minister, Tibor Navracsics, affirmed that, following the Hungarian Constitutional Court's ruling on the Media Act, the act would be amended and the Hungarian Government would send the draft amendments to the Council of Europe for assessment.

1. Does the Commission know whether the Council of Europe has already been requested to make an assessment of the Media Act and whether the Hungarian authorities have already sent the Media Act and the amendments thereto to the Council of Europe and, specifically, the Venice Commission?
2. During the hearing and afterwards, a few members of the Fidesz delegation in the European Parliament, including József Szájer², Lívia Járóka³ and Kinga Gál⁴, publicly voiced their criticism of the remarks made by Commissioner Kroes during the event. What is the Commission's reaction to this criticism?

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120206IPR37350/html/Hungary-MEPs-hear-from-civil-society-media-and-the-government>.

² <http://www.politics.hu/20120213/fidesz-mep-szajer-accuses-eu-media-commissioner-kroes-of-overstepping-authority/>.

³ <http://www.politics.hu/20120217/fidesz-mep-asks-eu-commissioner-kroes-to-respect-facts/>.

⁴ <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2012/february/kroes-has-grave-concerns-about-hungarian-media-laws/73557.aspx>.