

**Question for written answer E-006893/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Doris Pack (PPE)**

Subject: Communication from the Commission on state aid for films and other audiovisual works

The draft Communication from the Commission on state aid for films and other audiovisual works appears to make insufficient accommodation for the protection of cultural diversity and the sovereign right of Member States to make their own independent cultural policies. The contractual obligations shaping EU policy, which are enshrined in such texts as the UNESCO Convention on cultural diversity, should not be undermined by new rules on state aid within the Union. The proposed substantial decoupling of aid from geographical area is incomprehensible in terms of both competition rules and internal market rules.

Even the study ordered by the Commission failed to find any evidence of significant disadvantages for the EU audiovisual market, and indeed identified advantages. Introducing these various new rules, whose consequences have not been assessed, could potentially destabilise the European audiovisual sector and in some respects jeopardise its existence.

- Is it the Commission's intention, with this draft communication, to undermine the UNESCO Convention?
- Is the Commission aware that the proposed new regulations represent a major threat to the audiovisual sector in Europe, and that it is therefore failing in its duty to protect adequately cultural diversity in the EU?