

Question for written answer E-001306/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Edit Bauer (PPE)

Subject: Violation of the fundamental principles of the EU

In a meeting held on 29 January 2013, the Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission of the Republic of Slovakia passed a decision to sanction the 'Fun Rádió' commercial radio station for broadcasting, at 15.53 on 14 September 2012, an advertisement for OTP Bank in Hungarian on its Losonc frequency. According to the justification, the radio station thereby violated Law No 270/1995 on the State Language, which it states also applies to broadcasters and which stipulates that television and radio broadcasting throughout the Republic of Slovakia shall take place in the state language. The Media Council did not impose a fine but decided to caution 'Fun Rádió' for breaking the law.

In its reply, dated 17 December 2010, to a previous question of mine, the Commission expressed its concerns at the 'compatibility of certain provisions with EU law'. It also contacted the Slovak authorities. In spite of this, the law remains in force and in fact serves as a legal basis for the Slovak authorities, as is borne out by this latest decision.

The commercial broadcaster advertised the services of a bank in the language of the minority population in a region inhabited by Slovaks and Hungarians, and for this it was reprimanded.

Does the Commission not consider that this decision and this provision of the 1995 law are in violation of the principle of the free movement of goods and services?

In view of the fact that the Commission identified a possible violation of the law and expressed its concerns in an earlier reply, and given the fact that the Slovak authorities continue to proceed in accordance with the provisions of the law in question, is the Commission not planning to launch infringement proceedings for a breach of EU law?