

**Question for written answer E-003430/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Petru Constantin Luhan (PPE)**

Subject: Compatibility of media freedom with EU fundamental rights

Commissioner Neelie Kroes recently launched two consultations on media freedom and pluralism following a recommendation from the Commission's high level group.

There is a genuine need to closely monitor national media laws to ensure their compatibility with fundamental EU rights.

The Romanian zootechnic sector was recently affected when international media questioned the sector's involvement in the horsemeat scandal, while investigations were still ongoing. Despite Romania's prompt response to the horsemeat scandal, certain sections of the media presented Romania as a guilty party. As far as I know, the media responsible for these accusations have not yet made a public apology for the unfounded allegations, and so the damage done to Romania's image has gone unrepaired.

This is a good example which should be used and analysed in the consultations on media freedom and pluralism in order to make the media accept more responsibility for the negative effects it can have in cases such as the one above.

In this light, how does the Commission intend to ensure the compatibility of media freedom with EU fundamental rights?