

**Question for written answer E-014074/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Hermann Winkler (PPE)**

Subject: European Centre for Press and Media Freedom/ECPMF 2013

In a letter dated 29 November 2013, the European Commission's Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology informed the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (based at the Media Foundation of the Sparkasse Leipzig) that its application for assistance in connection with the pilot project 'European Centre for Press and Media Freedom' had not been successful. This had the effect of abruptly pulling the rug from beneath the feet of any future plans for an initiative that had been many years in the making and was well advanced, and that enjoys the backing of a broad network of well-known actors from the media, science and politics. At 46 points, the result of the evaluation fell below the lower limit for successful applications of 47 points by the narrowest conceivable margin. This is all the more the case if the details of the reasoning behind the evaluation fail to convince at all points. In this light, the following questions arise:

1. What is the detailed make-up of the evaluation panel that made this decision and who appointed it?
2. Were the applicants given the opportunity to clear up any unclear points in the explanatory statement to the application and to respond to any questions?
3. Does the Commission agree that, given the tightness of the result, the evaluation should be repeated? Has such a re-evaluation taken place?
4. Which projects were considered for assistance in the result?