

**Question for written answer E-004333/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR)

Subject: German Constitutional Court's judgment on bodies running German public-service television broadcaster ZDF

In its judgment of 25 March 2014, Germany's Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht) asserted that the composition of the bodies tasked with running the German public-service television broadcaster ZDF included too many members who were 'closely associated with the state'. This casts doubt on the broadcaster's independence, and the Court has ordered the number of such members to be reduced to one-third. The Court gave Germany's federal states until 30 June 2015 to come up with new regulations.

However, no changes have yet been made to the composition of the ZDF bodies. The chair of the broadcasting council (Fernsehrat) is still a politician from the CDU, Bundestag Member Ruprecht Polenz, who is associated with Chancellor Angela Merkel. The change is planned for the summer of 2016.

1. Is the Commission monitoring this situation?
2. Given that the Court's judgment has not been implemented yet, how does the Commission evaluate the lack of independence of the public-service media in Germany?