Question for written answer E-006046/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Auke Zijlstra (ENF)

Subject: NPO digital

The Dutch public service broadcaster NPO, which has traditionally focused on radio and television, is increasingly present on the internet. Whereas the NPO in the past facilitated a multifaceted programme offer from various broadcasting organisations, its position has gradually shifted towards a publicly-funded independent broadcasting organisation.

Commercial broadcasters and media services, including digitally published newspapers, are finding it increasingly difficult to generate (advertising) revenue to present their programmes on the internet. The publicly-funded NPO does not have this problem, which means that it has a disturbing influence on the digital media market. The NPO, with a government budget of EUR 800 million, furthermore contributes nothing to the existing digital culture on the internet.

1. Does the Commission believe that the growing presence of the publicly-funded NPO on the internet is in line with the European Union's digital agenda?

2. Does the Commission consider that the state aid provided to NPO has a market-disturbing effect?

3. What steps will the Commission take against the market disturbance created on the internet by a publicly-funded broadcasting company?