

**Question for written answer E-002640/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Unbalanced media coverage of government and opposition parties during the coronavirus crisis

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in the Member States, government parties have enjoyed much more extensive media coverage than opposition parties. For example, since 15 March 2020, when the pandemic reached Germany, a total of 71 politicians from the parties represented in the Bundestag have been invited to appear on the five main talk shows on Germany's public television channels and speak to millions of people.

That figure of 71 breaks down as follows among the parties:

SPD: 32 (45.1%)

CDU and CSU: 25 (35.2%)

FDP: 8 (11.3%)

'Greens': 4 (5.6%)

Linke (Left): 2 (2.8%)

AfD (Alternative for Germany): 0

1. Against the backdrop of the EU Action Plan against Disinformation, what view does the Commission take of the fact that during the corona pandemic government parties have been overrepresented in the media ¹ ?
2. How can this overrepresentation be reconciled with one of the 10 priorities for the Commission's term of office, namely 'democratic change' ² ?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/de_communication_on_disinformation_factsheet_proof_1.pdf

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2019-002856-ASW_DE.html