

**Question for written answer E-006372/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jaak Madison (ID), Peter Kofod (ID)

Subject: Prosecution of journalists investigating the MS Estonia disaster

In September 2020, two Swedish nationals, journalist Henrik Evertsson and cameraman Linus Andersson, released a documentary series entitled *Estonia: The Find That Changes Everything*. The documentary investigates the 1994 sinking of the MS Estonia and reveals an unrecorded four-metre hole in the hull of the ship. The evidence and statements made by the families of the victims contradict and cast doubt on the official findings of an international commission that investigated the tragedy in 1997. The entire disaster, and the investigation that followed, has been shrouded in mystery. In 1995, the Estonia Agreement¹ was signed by Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Denmark, Russia and the United Kingdom, which declared the sanctity of the site and prohibited their citizens from approaching the wreck.

Evertsson and Andersson have since been arrested and charged with ‘violating a burial site’ and now face a two-year prison sentence.

1. Is the Commission aware of this case?
2. Is it of the opinion that the prosecution is in line with basic human rights, such as the right to impart information and the right to freedom of expression in the press?
3. Is the Estonia Agreement compatible with EU law?

¹ Agreement regarding the MS Estonia of 23 February 1995:
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201890/volume-1890-I-32189-English.pdf>