Question for written answer E-002423/2021 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Attempted censorship by a public service

With regard to the above subject, we would like to draw attention to the following:

Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;

Title II, Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which guarantees freedom of expression and information;

the establishment of the Sakharov Prize in 1988 by the European Parliament, the aim of which is to reward leading figures who have devoted their lives to defending individual freedoms, including that of expression;

the inclusion of freedom of artistic expression in the Democracy Action Plan;

the Council of Europe Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era;

the attempt to censor the freedom of expression of an Italian artist (Fedez) by a national public service, more specifically the RAI, in order to prevent him from referring to specific and undeniable statements by politicians on the issue of gender respect.

In view of the above:

- 1. How can the Commission ensure that the right to freedom of artistic expression of Fedez and any other artist is respected in accordance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights?
- 2. What can the Commission do to ensure that preventive conditioning is no longer perpetrated and that the Italian media system is monitored as much as that of other countries, such as Hungary?