Question for written answer E-002861/2021 to the Commission

Rule 138 Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Possible misappropriation of COVID-19 funds for the purchase of programmes for the

Catalan public television channel TV3

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented health, economic and social emergency. In view of the situation, the European Union made specific resources and funds available to the Member States to enable them to meet the urgent needs of their health systems. In Spain, as a result of the model of political decentralisation, health care is managed by the Autonomous Communities, with the State responsible for those functions necessary to ensure the unity and solidarity of the health system.

Recently, following questions from opposition groups in the Catalan Parliament, the President of the Catalan Audiovisual Corporation acknowledged that she had received COVID-19 funds and used them to buy programmes from the Minoria Absoluta production company and documentaries about the Catalan separatist political 'process' from the Mediapro group for the public television channel TV3<sup>1</sup>.

In the light of this, and in view of the evidence of a possible misappropriation of funds allocated to Catalonia's regional government to tackle the consequences of the coronavirus but used to purchase programmes for public television:

Will the Commission launch an investigation into the proper use by the Generalitat de Cataluña of the financial mechanisms authorised by the EU to strengthen health systems?

https://www.elmundo.es/cataluna/2021/05/29/60b258af21efa0351e8b467b.html