

**Question for written answer E-004524/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Staff redundancies at Euronews

The employees of the Greek service of the TV channel Euronews are in a dire situation. Freelancers working for years via freelance contracts have had their employment terminated and the possible closure of the TV channel, or its conversion to an on-line service, means that, at best, the vast majority of its employees will be made redundant.

The argument that news from Greece and Cyprus 'is no longer of interest', which — according to the complaint filed by the employees' union — is the basis for the decision by the Euronews management to close the Greek service, is proof that business groups in the media sector, and the EU itself, perceive information as a commodity.

These developments, which will affect the employees of the Greek service, are a manifestation of 'best European practices', i.e. expansion of flexible employment 'on a freelance basis', deregulation of redundancies and exemption of employers from their obligation to pay compensation.

Given that the European Commission provides financial support to Euronews annually using funds from EU citizens and the EU's public/state channels are shareholders in the channel:

1. What is the Commission's view of the demand for all jobs to be retained and freelance work to be converted into permanent full-time jobs?
2. Does the Commission agree that the employment rights of all Euronews employees must be fully respected, regardless of their employment relationship with the channel?