Question for written answer E-004957/2021 to the Commission Rule 138 Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Subject: Commission decision to halt funding for Euronews Greek language service

Following protests at national and European level at the decision to discontinue the entire Euronews Greek language service from the end of 2021, the channel's management has announced its intention of providing a pared-down service in Greek available in digital form only (and not on TV) for just 12 months up to the end of 2022, resulting in a 50% staff cut. Euronews management has also confirmed that the Greek language service will no longer receive any of the annual funding provided by the Commission, meaning that it must now rely exclusively on major shareholder equity. This means that, despite having invested in this channel for almost ten years, the EU will no longer having any say regarding the use of funding provided by it for the purpose of upholding the fundamental principles of multilingualism and the equality of all official EU languages.

In view of this:

- 1. Can the Commission confirm that it has approved the withholding of EU funding from the Euronews Greek language service and, if so, from what date and for what reason?
- 2. What steps will it take to ensure that the Greek language service is able to carry on operating fully (on TV and online) with continued EU funding and keeping all its staff?