

Question for written answer E-000117/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)

Subject: Cancellation of broadcast on a state-run channel

Article 2 TEU states that the Union is founded on the values of respect for freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees the right to freedom of expression and information, without interference by public authority.

In Cyprus, however, bowing to pressure from above, the president of the public broadcasting body has agreed to cancel a broadcast with the obvious aim of protecting the government.

He went on to indicate that 'the matter was sensitive', adding that the journalist responsible for the broadcast was failing to provide the necessary information and was not capable of dealing with the matter.

In view of this,

1. What is the position of the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, regarding the censorship of journalists and the infringement of their independence and freedom of expression on Cyprus state television?
2. What action will it take in response to the European Parliament's call for a response to attempted public television censorship (resolution of 25 November 2020 on media freedom) as a serious abuse of power contrary to the fundamental values of the EU?
3. What measures will it take to enforce Directive 2018/1808 requiring editorial decisions to be taken without pressure from the State or from regulators or regulatory bodies?