

**Question for written answer E-000630/2022/rev.1
to the Council**
Rule 138
Gerolf Annemans (ID)

Subject: European Investment Bank staff and the independence of news media

On 12 January 2021, Mr Kris Peeters was appointed Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB). He is the former Flemish Minister of Public Works (2004-2007), Minister-President and Minister for Economic Affairs and Media (2007-2014), Belgian Minister for Economic Affairs (2014-2018) and Member of the European Parliament (2019-2021). He was also a local councillor in Antwerp.

DPG Media Group is a large media company, headquartered in Antwerp, that operates in Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark. It holds a portfolio of 90 brands in publishing and broadcasting services. DPG Media Group and MediaHuis have a duopoly in the newspaper market in Flanders and the Netherlands.

On 27 January 2022 Vice-President Peeters publicly announced in Antwerp that the EIB had signed a loan agreement with DPG Media Group for an amount of EUR 100 million¹.

Does the Council think that loans from public lending institutions such as the EIB, when represented by a former leading politician, to large media companies compromise the independence of news media from government and public policy?

¹ <https://www.dpgmedia.be/nl/nieuws/eib-dpg-media-group-eu100-miljoen-voor-verdere-digitalisering-van-mediaplatformen-belgie-en>