

**Question for written answer E-002246/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Leila Chaibi (The Left)

Subject: Vivendi's takeover bid for Hachette-Livre – information for employees and abuse of dominant position

French group Vivendi's takeover bid for Hachette-Livre, a subsidiary of the Lagardère group, would create a near-monopoly on the literary market and would make the book industry even more unequal. It would pose a threat to the creative industry, to culture and to education. The takeover would lead to downsizing with predictable consequences within the two groups. It could, for example, result in the pooling of resources, economies of scale, hundreds of job losses and the deterioration of working conditions owing to requirements to be more profitable or efforts to fall into line with similar companies that are keen on 'bullshit jobs'.

The employees of both groups would like to know what kind of future awaits them, but they can do little more than speculate about the intentions of Mr Bolloré, Vivendi's CEO. Against a backdrop of radio silence and swirling rumours, Mr Bolloré has apparently been in talks with the Commission for several weeks now.

1. Can the Commission confirm that it is currently in talks with the Vivendi group about the takeover bid for Hachette-Livre?
2. Will it make public any information on the matter, in particular anything concerning the Vivendi and Hachette groups' employees?
3. Does the Commission not think that Vivendi's takeover of Hachette-Livre would constitute abuse of its dominant market position?