Question for written answer E-002590/2022 to the Commission Rule 138

Tom Vandendriessche (ID)

Subject: Exclusivity contracts at the public-service broadcaster VRT

The Flemish public-service broadcaster VRT makes use of exclusivity contracts in order to 'lock in' well known Flemish television personalities. The value of six such contracts exceeds EUR 300 000; eleven others are worth between EUR 100 000 and EUR 300 000. Given that VRT is a public-service broadcaster and was awarded a government grant of EUR 265 846 000 in 2022, in a market that also includes private-sector operators, and given that VRT has poached these television personalities from private-sector operators such as VTM,

are such exclusivity contracts contrary to European competition rules?