

**Question for written answer E-004003/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Łukasz Kohut (S&D)**

Subject: State media monopoly on private cable and satellite networks

The Polish government has drafted an amendment to the Broadcasting Act which is intended to hurt private television stations. Under the existing 'must carry' obligation requiring every cable and satellite network provider to carry specific stations, television customers in Poland have been guaranteed access to the following channels: TVP1, TVP2, TVP3, Polsat, TV4, TVN and TV Puls. However, the amendment removes private television stations from the list of channels for which access must be provided and replaces them with additional public service stations (TVP Kultura and TVP Info).

The government's action strikes a blow against pluralism by giving a de facto monopoly to public television channels that is not justified by public interest. As the Commission is aware, public television broadcasts one-sided coverage; it is a government station which serves as a government propaganda tool.

This legislative amendment will run counter to the 'must carry' rule stemming from EU law laid down in the Universal Service Directive, which states that 'must carry' obligations imposed by Member States: 'should be reasonable, that is they should be proportionate and transparent in the light of clearly defined general interest objectives'.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission consider the amendment to be compatible with EU law and the rule of law?
2. Does the amendment discriminate against private operators (TVN and Polsat)?
3. What action is the Commission planning to take in this matter?

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