Question for written answer E-001912/2023/rev.1 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Euronews

Euronews is an audio-visual media service originally set up to provide quality pan-European news and information to the widest possible audience. It is broadcast in 160 countries and freely available in 400 million homes. Euronews' strength lay in the fact that it had an international team who worked together from the same headquarters to create content daily and broadcast it simultaneously in several languages. Euronews was recognised as a mission of European general interest by the Commission in 2010 and thanks to the various partnership agreements that have been signed to ensure public co-financing, this status is yet to change.

However, Euronews is currently undergoing strategic changes that are being driven by its majority shareholder, ALPAC Capital. These changes are having a substantial social impact (197 out of the 349 people working at the head office in Lyon – which has been put up for sale – will be made redundant and the remaining staff will eventually be relocated) and involve a drastic reversal of the business model. As a result of this mass redundancy, Euronews' multilingual nature has been undermined, with management even declaring that weekend shows will be in English only from now on. It has also been announced that Euronews will shift its focus to the Brussels bubble, which runs counter to their initial objective of providing the widest possible audience with news and information.

Are these reversals – which run counter to Euronews' historic mission – not completely at odds with the latest framework partnership agreement?

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