

**Question for written answer E-002839/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Milan Zver (PPE)**

**Subject:** The Commission's criteria for objectivity and political independence of people directly involved in drawing up country-specific rule of law reports

The Culture Committee in the National Assembly deliberated the Commission's report on the state of the rule of law in the media, journalism and democracy in Slovenia. In the debate, Peter Gregorčič, former Head of the Programme Council at Radio Television Slovenia (RTVS), pointed out that the Commission had clearly followed a single political line in drawing up the report, failing to fulfil its supranational role and highlighting only the arguments of selected stakeholders. Mr Gregorčič mentioned in particular the Head of the Commission's Working Group, who omitted from the report a series of information which Mr Gregorčič had provided to him. In drafting the report, that working group took into account only the civil society actors who had drafted the amended RTVS Act, which subsequently led to the full political takeover of the public media.

1. How does the Commission ensure the ideological and political independence of its staff who are directly involved in drawing up the rule of law report for a specific country?
2. What methodology does the Commission use in its assessment and in preparation of the rule of law report, including the selection of national stakeholders it uses as a source for drafting the report?
3. In relation to Slovenia, why did the Commission mostly take into account and talk to those civil society organisations and individuals with a strongly one-sided political motivation?

Submitted: 27.9.2023