

ORAL QUESTION H-0642/08
for Question Time at the part-session in September II 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Alain Hutchinson
to the Council

Subject: Reform of French public-sector television

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has undertaken to implement a major reform of public-sector television in France. The reform, which would bring to an end all commercial advertising, is facing major resistance from workers in the sector and, in a broader context, from public opinion, with fears that public-service television would soon cease to exist as it would not be able to compete with private channels if it no longer received income from advertisements. From here it is but a short step to believing, as many people do, that France has decided to kill off public-sector television to the benefit of the private sector, which stands to gain much from the procedure.

Is this an isolated case, or is the initiative likely to spread to all Member States? I would also like to know the Council's position on this issue and whether this kind of reform conforms to European legislation.

Tabled: 15.07.2008
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