

**Question for oral answer O-000069/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Closure of Greek state broadcaster

On 11 June 2013, the Greek Government decided to completely shut down its state broadcaster with immediate effect, leaving 2 655 workers without a job.

Given that:

- this decision has been taken unilaterally without consulting relevant staff and trade unions, without a debate in the Greek Parliament and in an anti-democratic and authoritarian way;
 - the decision constitutes an attack on employment and on democracy and a threat to freedom of expression, to the ability to access to independent, credible and diverse information and to pluralism;
 - the EU Treaty signed five years ago includes the Amsterdam Protocol which recognises public service broadcasting as a distinctive element of the European Union's *acquis communautaire*;
 - Parliament has repeatedly stated in its resolutions that 'public television and radio must be supported as they do have a very important role in our society and democracy';
 - the decision was immediately condemned by the European Broadcasting Union; and that
 - the Commission has stated that it 'supports the role of public broadcasting as an integral part of European democracy and highlights the role of public broadcasters regarding European values in all economic circumstances, for the sake of media pluralism, media freedom and media quality and for the expression of cultural diversity';
1. how does the Commission plan to intervene in this situation so that the Greek government immediately reverses its decision?
 2. does the Commission agree that the Greek government's decision is a violation of Article 11 of the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights and of the Amsterdam Protocol?
 3. does the Commission agree that the Greek government's decision was taken under conditions which do not comply with the principles of European social dialogue and with Directive 2002/14/EC on informing and consulting employees in the European Community, and
 4. does the Commission believe that the act of financially threatening public service broadcasters respects, guarantees or promotes the fundamental rights to freedom of expression, freedom of information, media freedom or pluralism?

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Deadline for reply: 27.6.2013