

**Question for oral answer O-000056/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the ID Group

Subject: The current and future situation of financial support for Euronews

Between 2014 and 2018, Euronews received a total of EUR 122 million from the Commission, equivalent to an average of EUR 24.4 million per year. This means that one third of the private channel is financed from EU funds, in spite of the fact that most EU citizens are unable to receive the TV programme at the very least. The above information has been taken from a reply to a request to the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS).

This gives rise to questions about the background to Euronews, also in relation to the fact that the continuation of the Commission's funding of the channel is still open and as to whether it will be or should be pursued at all.

1. Have the EU funds received by Euronews ever been offered to other news broadcasters?
2. What were the criteria on which the conclusion of the contract with Euronews was based?
3. To what extent does the Commission consider that fair competition is being safeguarded if Euronews – according to a representative of the broadcaster – does not appear to be viable without Union funding?
4. What is the Commission's assessment of the fact that Euronews also produces paid content (sponsored contributions, recognisable in each case by an insert at the beginning and at the end of the contribution) and has an EU audit been carried out to verify that these paid advertisements are not being translated into EU languages using EU funds?
5. What is the Commission's assessment of the setting up of Euronews offices in Brussels, Cairo, Doha, London, Paris, Kiev, Istanbul, Dubai, Washington and Beijing, whereby only two out of ten offices seem to be established in an EU capital?
6. To what extent is there a need to further promote Euronews through Union funds, since, even years after its creation, the channel has still not been able to gain any relevant market share and the founding members of the channel (the European Broadcasting Union) may have sold their shares because of the channel's lack of success, so that 88 % of Euronews is now held by a non-European financial holding company linked to the Egyptian businessman Naguib Sawiris?

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Lapses: 16/12/2020