

**Priority question for written answer P-001101/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: WTO negotiations on e-commerce and the policy of cultural exception

In 1986, the Uruguay Round commenced, with the aim of expanding the GATT principles to cover services, copyright and the audiovisual sector. In negotiations, European countries succeeded in excluding the audiovisual sector from the scope of the Agreement. Since then, by virtue of the principle of cultural diversity, the European audiovisual sector has not been subject to free trade agreements.

In 2019, 76 WTO members, including the European Union, confirmed in a joint statement their intention to enter into discussions on trade-related aspects of e-commerce. As usual, the mandate conferred upon the Commission by the Member States expressly exempts audiovisual services from all rules and commitments. However, according to information brought to our attention, the Commission is considering not asking for an exemption for audiovisual services in the ongoing negotiations.

1. Does the Commission take the view that it has correctly interpreted the mandate conferred upon it by Member States?
2. Is the Commission using the lack of an exemption for audiovisual services as a bargaining chip to have other exceptions lifted?
3. Is the Commission aware of the risk it is posing to European cultural diversity and to the legitimate right of Member States to draft national policies that regulate and support the audiovisual sector?

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