

**Question for written answer E-001421/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Censorship of a private channel and threat to media pluralism in France

By means of its decision of 24 July, the French Regulatory Authority for Audiovisual and Digital Communication (Arcom) banned the channel C8 from TNT. Arcom is thereby preventing a private channel from offering an independent viewpoint that is respectful of political pluralism and popular among viewers. Meanwhile, two openly left-oriented channels have been authorised, despite the fact that recent surveys show that left-wing and centre-based perspectives largely dominate the public audiovisual sector, which receives more than EUR 4 billion per year in public funding.

TNT massively shapes the French audiovisual landscape and remains the only means of receiving television for almost 20 % of TV households. C8, its presenters and owners had already already been subject to political pressure, including during hearings in the French National Assembly. Although the members of Arcom are appointed by the public authorities, this decision appears to be a form of censorship and a direct attack on media freedom and pluralism in France.

Will the Commission remind the French Government of its obligation to protect the rule of law, the plurality of information and freedom of expression, as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights?

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