

ANDRUS ANSIP

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24 01. 2017
Arès HH/VM (2017) D 376290

Ms Ana GOMES, MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
1047 BRUSSELS

Dear Honourable Member,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2016 in which you draw Commission's attention to a number of allegations concerning the management of Euronews.

Relations between the Commission and Euronews have been covered since 2010 by successive Framework Partnership Agreements. This partnership is concluded on the basis of Euronews' recognised mission of European general interest and its *de facto* monopoly and specialisation in broadcasting European news with a European perspective. As part of this agreement, Euronews must keep intact its mission of European general interest and its independence.

At the same time, Euronews is a private company. The Commission is not a shareholder and has no legal say in the organisation or in the strategy of Euronews, which works following its own governance rules as defined by its Supervisory board. However, the Commission has legitimate interests in Euronews, since it significantly contributes to Euronews' annual budget, for the production of a number of European programmes, in different language versions.

This is why Commission services are in regular contact with Euronews and are closely monitoring the respect of our agreements, notably via external evaluations, but also through a bilateral dialogue in which Euronews usually informs the Commission of important decisions affecting the company. With the dialogue, the Commission aims to improve the relevance, efficiency and impact of present and future actions.

./..

It is under this light that the Commission has been informed about the intention of NBC News, an American broadcaster, to buy a minority share in Euronews. I can assure you that my services are assessing thoroughly the implications of this possible deal on Euronews' impartiality, quality, independence, as well as its effects on the future of the bilateral partnership.

Regardless of these implications, Euronews remains solely responsible regarding its staff regulations and managerial decisions, in conformity with the applicable law. The Commission cannot interfere in such decisions, which fall under the jurisdiction of the French labour courts.

Let me assure you that the Commission remains as committed as ever to funding strong, cost-effective actions with proven added-value in Europe and beyond as part of our Multimedia Actions.

Yours faithfully,


Andrus Ansip