



Mariya Gabriel
 Commissioner for
 Digital Economy and Society

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Honorable MEP,

Thank you for your letter dated on 13 April, in which you inform VP Mogherini, and Commissioner King and myself about your visit to Euronews' headquarters in Lyon. I believe that your visit can help in building a better understanding about the future of our partnership with Euronews. As you know the Commission released last November a communication on strengthening the European identity through education and culture, in which we recognized the need for a reflection on the degree of ambition the EU has for the future of Euronews. The communication also stated that the European Parliament should be closely involved in this process and that strengthening the European dimension of Euronews was a way forward.

The Commission is monitoring Euronews closely. In 2010, a first framework partnership agreement was signed by both the Commission and Euronews. Euronews was recognized as having a mission of general EU interest, being the sole European broadcaster producing and disseminating news under a pan-European perspective. The current Framework Partnership Agreement is valid until February 2021. It is used for funding both programmes on EU affairs and the production of several language services.

Different evaluations and audits have confirmed over the years that Euronews still is a distinctive and unique European broadcaster, which enjoys a relevant positioning in the international news media market. Its brand is a synonym of independence, pluralism and impartial journalism, and it is followed daily by millions of EU and non-EU audiences.

Ms Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament

The Commission attaches a lot of importance to funding quality content on EU affairs through Euronews. Even if funds allocated to the Multimedia Actions line were decreased by roughly 30% in the current MFF (compared to the period 2007-2013), our support for Euronews was not decreased: it has remained stable, at EUR 18 Mio per year (and EUR ~24 Mio if other budgetary lines are also taken into account). In parallel, the Commission is also paying more and more attention to content. A new network of correspondents across Europe has been set up and the channel's offices in Brussels have been reinforced with the help of EU funds.

Euronews, as many other tv channels, is facing changes as a result of the digital shift, changes in audience behaviours and advertising trends. The Commission is aware of these evolutions. We have monitored them closely. The Framework Partnership Agreement signed in 2017 includes a number of clauses to assure that Euronews remains an impartial, plural and independent news channel, which respects multilingualism, takes care of its staff and maintains its European perspective.

The Commission is also adapting its funding in line with the technological changes included in Euronews' new business plan, which includes a renewed production. It is in this context that the Farsi and Arabic services were converted into full digital versions. This decision is already bearing fruits, as Farsi is now the third most popular digital language across Euronews, while Arabic is the second most consumed service via Facebook.

I fully share your views in that, as many other news outlets, Euronews has a potential to grow and, through the production of quality information, have a role in our efforts to counter disinformation, fake news and malevolent propaganda, as well as for promoting European values and interests. I believe that more needs to be done at EU level in the media sector and I count on your support to continue working together and achieve that goal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mariya Gabriel', written over a horizontal line.

Mariya Gabriel