



Mariya GABRIEL

Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

Brussels, 26.09.2017

Honorable MEP,

Thank you for your letter of 8 September, in which you draw our attention towards the coverage of the elections in Angola by the tv news channel Euronews NBC. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of Vice-President Ansip, HRVP Mogherini and Commissioner Mimica.

The Commission is not a shareholder of Euronews, which entirely is an independent, private broadcaster. As you rightly state, Euronews NBC benefits from EU support, owing to Euronews' recognized mission of European general interest and its status as sole broadcaster covering news with a pan-European perspective.

The relations between the channel and the European Commission are governed by a 4-year Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) signed last February. This FPA is the instrument enabling the Commission to fund a number of actions within Euronews, such as the production of EU programmes and linguistic versions. The FPA includes a charter ensuring Euronews its editorial independence, but requires from Euronews to retain a European perspective and produce independent, unbiased and pluralistic content.

Euronews must thus abide by the highest editorial standards in its news coverage. As part of our discussions it has reinforced its editorial board and is due to produce transparency reports and manage complaints in a proper way. We are in close touch with Euronews to assure these standards are met, including in this case.

The Commission has no evidence of Euronews producing 'biased and pro-regime propaganda' owing to a partnership with Angolan media agencies. We have, nevertheless, requested information from the channel to see to what extent the coverage on the Angolan elections was satisfactory in their own view.

*Mrs Ana Gomes, MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1048 Brussels*



As you are aware, the EU has followed closely the recent General elections that took place in Angola on 23rd August through the deployment of an Election Expert Mission. A final report with the assessment made by the experts and recommendations to improve future electoral processes will be available soon and will be shared with the European Parliament.

Let me conclude by assuring you that the Commission remains as committed as ever to having impartial and credible information of highest quality. Funding of Euronews NBC and other multimedia actions are part of this strategy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mariya Gabriel', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Best regards,

Mariya Gabriel,