



Parlamento Europeu

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Mr. PARCU PIER LUIGI**

**Dear Mr. PARCU,**

I would like to greet you and show you all my respect for the work done by the Center for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (CMPF). Media pluralism and freedom of expression and information is an indispensable right that we must protect every day. And as you well know, despite that it is included as a fundamental right in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, is not always fulfilled in practice.

This is the main reason why I decide to send you this letter. I would like to draw your attention to what is happening in my country, Galiza, northwest of the Spanish State. The Public Radio and Television Company (CRTVG), instead of keeping the principle of objectivity and plurality, is totally at the service of the party in the Government. People's Party (PP) exercises full control over the contents and programming, using them for their benefit and interest, above the common good and Galician culture and information.

The daily partisan use of the information services is scandalous. Last summer, two of the most veteran and well-known journalists of TVG, Alfonso Hermida and Tati Moyano, resigned as television presenters to denounce the control under which all the personnel of the public channels are subjected. However, the Company's management reacts to the social and employees critics opening disciplinary proceedings. This procedure included dismissal threats. Content control and the reduction of quality and plurality are also caused by the reduction of the CRTVG budget, which has decreased from 148 million euros in 2007 to 107 this year. The reduction of personnel from 1,200 workers in 2009 to 952 today -38% of which are temporary- have impacted as well.

The perpetuation of this situation in Galiza is even more worrisome taking account that the Law 9/2011 of November 9 of Public Media of Audiovisual Communication of Galicia was approved more than seven years ago. In it, Article 36 established that the Professional Statute of the RTVG Corporation should be created as an instrument aimed at strengthening the quality, professionalism and independence of the informative content. Moreover, this Article fix the creation of an Information Council for participation of RTVG Corporation information professionals, in order to ensure the independence, truthfulness and objectivity of the informative content.

After seven years, the Information Council has not yet been created and the Professional Statute is still unprocessed. As a result, in Galiza we have a situation of total tampering of the CRTVG by the party in the Government, which does not executes the laws approved by itself.

Because of this unacceptable situation, the CRTVG personnel begins today, November 20<sup>th</sup>, a strike approved by a large majority by the assembly of workers in the defense of public media. This action adds to the 26 uninterrupted "Black Friday", a vindicating campaign in which they were claiming public and plural media dressing in black. These actions have great support in a large part of Galician society.

All this I have told you, with many more details, has already been reported in the Committee of Petitions of the European Parliament by the workers of the CRTVG. I have repeatedly denounced it through public statements, oral interventions in plenary of the European Parliament and with written questions sent to the European Commission.

However, the situation is still unchanged. As you may know, the EC delegates some responsibility in the field of pluralism and media freedom financing independent projects such the Media Pluralism Monitor (MPM), which is being run by CMPF. The last published report (December, 2016) detected a medium and high risk in the Spanish State in relation to the respect of plurality, the concentration of the property in the sector of the mass media and about the application of the norms of the competition.

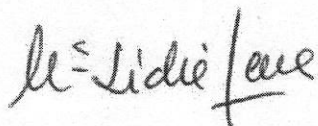
**I would like to ask you very strongly that next study of Media Pluralism Monitor takes into account the situation in the Spanish State an analysis what is happening in the public media of Galiza, and specifically in the CRTVG.**

**We encourage you to carry out a field survey and get in touch with the workers of CRTVG, who, without any doubt, will give you all the information about the related situation.**

I am also at your disposal for preparing these reports or help you in this case, if you consider.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

With my Best Regards,



MEP Lidia Senra Rodríguez

Brussels, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018