

To the attention of:

Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration

Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for the Internal Market

Letter to the European Commission regarding Euronews' restructuring plan

Dear Commissioners,

We have taken note of the restructuring plan announced by the Euronews headquarters: to the best of our knowledge, almost half of the journalists based in Lyon, France, are to be laid off, namely 198 positions among the journalists of 30 nationalities working there. In addition, the headquarters building will be sold and the remaining staff redeployed to Brussels, Rome, Berlin, Lisbon, Madrid and London.

We sincerely deplore this announcement, both for the future of the journalists and employees made redundant and for the future of the Euronews channel, but also for the media coverage of European activities and its wide dissemination in 12 languages, including 8 official languages of the European Union. At a time when we are working on a regulation to strengthen the freedom and pluralism of the media in the European Union, the reduction in the number of Euronews employees should be of concern to us.

The European Union, via the Multimedia Actions budget line, has been funding Euronews since 2010 as it considers that the channel fulfils an important mission due to the quality of the content produced, the themes covered and the very wide geographical coverage offered by the channel. Under the 2021-2024 framework contract, Euronews has received €14.6 million in 2022 for the creation of European news content that meets high standards of quality, independence, impartiality, and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity.

In view of Euronews' announcements, we would like to know whether the Commission has been warned in advance of this restructuring plan, and whether it has received guarantees regarding the proper implementation of the framework agreement that binds the channel. Finally, we would like to remind you that we have been particularly vigilant about the situation of Euronews given the changes in shareholding over recent years. Given the stakes of this situation for European information and journalists, and for the proper use of the European budget, we need you to provide us with strong guarantees and reassurance.

Best regards,

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