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Priority question

AUTHOR(S): Josep-Maria Terricabras, Jill Evans

SUBJECT: Language rights in the EU: the case of Omrop Fryslan  
(please specify)

## TEXT:

The Dutch government plans to make severe cuts to its regional broadcasters. It will treat the Frisian-language TV provider, Omrop Fryslân, in the same way as other regional broadcasters in the country, despite its unique role as being the sole provider of Frisian language television. Article 11(1)(c)(ii) of the ECRML, ratified by the Netherlands, obliges states to facilitate the broadcasting of TV programmes in its regional or minority languages. The equal treatment of different situations violates the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in Article 14 of the ECHR taken in conjunction with Article 10. Under Article 9(3) of the FCPRM the Netherlands must ensure that persons belonging to national minorities are able to use their own media.

Broadcasting in regional/minority languages is essential to maintaining the linguistic diversity of the EU. Similarly severe cuts are happening across Europe, including to the Welsh language television channel, S4C. Considering the EU's commitment to the protection of regional/minority languages;

How will the Commission use its influence to ensure that Omrop Fryslân maintains its autonomy and funding from the Dutch Government and how will it ensure that there is provision of services in all languages and in all forms of the media across the EU?

Signature(s):

Jill Evans



Date: 22/09/2015