

Question for written answer E-004287/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Adria News Network acquisition and media pluralism in Serbia

N1, Nova, Danas and Radar are among Serbia's most prominent independent news outlets. They operate in a media environment where an imbalance in favour of the authorities has been repeatedly noted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

On 17 August 2026, the CEO of Alpac Capital became the director of the Serbian companies operating these outlets, while the Luxembourg authorities confirmed that the change of control approvals of the Luxembourg-licensed organisations had not yet been granted. Since then, the Nova.rs newsroom has contested new editorial appointments and, on 16 October 2026, ten N1 journalists resigned, nine days before Serbia's parliamentary elections.

The Commission is asked:

1. How will it reflect these developments in its assessment of Serbia under negotiating chapters 10 and 23, including in the forthcoming 2026 enlargement package?
2. Will it ask the European Board for Media Services to issue an opinion under Article 23(1) of the European Media Freedom Act, given that the target and the acquirer are Luxembourg-based and the network also operates in Croatia and Slovenia?
3. How does it assess the Serbian authorities' calls for N1 and Nova S to register with the Serbian regulator, and will it raise the topic of media pluralism during the electoral period with them?

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