

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000570/25
to the Commission
Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(7 February 2025)

Subject: Radio Televisión Española and the Recovery and Resilience Facility

The Spanish Government has allocated over EUR 117 million in Recovery and Resilience Facility funding to the Spanish broadcasting company Radio Televisión Española (RTVE). This would make RTVE, a public entity, one of the main beneficiaries of those EU recovery funds.

The various projects RTVE has financed using those EU funds have not had the impact expected — they have actually been very controversial owing to breaches of regulatory requirements, the return of some of the funding, and the state of RTVE's finances.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission know the total amount of EU Recovery and Resilience Facility funding that has been allocated to RTVE, the names of the companies subcontracted to carry out the projects, and how much money each subcontractor received? Does the Commission know how much progress was ultimately made on the projects?
2. Has the Spanish Government provided the Commission with an assessment of the various RTVE projects funded via the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the viewing figures, the airtime and the targets achieved?

Submitted: 7.2.2025

Question for written answer E-000571/25
to the Commission
Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(7 February 2025)

Subject: Radio Televisión Española and the Recovery and Resilience Facility

The Spanish Government has allocated over EUR 117 million in Recovery and Resilience Facility funding to the Spanish broadcasting company Radio Televisión Española (RTVE). This would make RTVE, a public entity, one of the main beneficiaries of those EU recovery funds.

The various projects RTVE has financed using those EU funds have not had the impact expected — they have actually been very controversial owing to breaches of regulatory requirements, the return of some of the funding, and the state of RTVE's finances.

In light of the fact that RTVE is in such dire financial straits that it, firstly, has been forced by the unsustainable state of its accounts to turn to a government reserve fund, and secondly, continues to run up debt: should the Recovery and Resilience Facility be used to fund such a public entity — especially if the projects funded have not achieved the targets they were designed to?

Submitted: 7.2.2025

Question for written answer E-000572/25
to the Commission
Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(7 February 2025)

Subject: Radio Televisión Española and the Recovery and Resilience Facility

The Spanish Government has allocated over EUR 76 million in Recovery and Resilience Facility funding to HAZ, a project run by the Spanish broadcasting company Radio Televisión Española (RTVE). A significant part of the work was subcontracted to large media companies with links to government partners, rather than being subcontracted to SMEs as per the regulatory requirements.

Of the EUR 15 976 622.30 allocated in total, almost half went to Mediapro, while Catorce Comunicación received 29.4%, giving the two companies a combined total of 79.2%. The remaining 59 subcontractors divided 10% between them, while 27 of the companies who had submitted bids were left empty-handed.

Is RTVE allowed to violate the regulatory requirements of this project and exceed the limits set on subcontracting, given that most of the funding received went to large media companies with links to the government, rather than to SMEs as was also set out in those same requirements for receiving EU funding?

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**Question for written answer E-000573/25
to the Commission
Isabel Benjumea Benjumea (PPE), Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(7 February 2025)**

Subject: Radio Televisión Española and the Recovery and Resilience Facility

The Spanish Government has allocated over EUR 20.5 million in Recovery and Resilience Facility funding to Generación D, a project run by the Spanish broadcasting company Radio Televisión Española (RTVE). One of the TV series made as part of the project was Brigada Big Tech, which had thirteen 45-minute episodes and cost EUR 4 565 353. The cost per episode was EUR 351 181 and the production cost per minute was EUR 7 804. This is dearer than the top-level football matches — such as European Championship ties — that RTVE broadcasts.

The host of Brigada Big Tech, Luján Argüelles, took home EUR 15 000 per episode, the third-highest salary at Televisión Española at the time, and the highest on the ‘La 2’ channel. For comparison, star presenters like those on Spain’s MasterChef earn EUR 10 000 per episode. However, Brigada Big Tech was a catastrophic flop in terms of viewing figures.

In light of the above:

1. Has the Commission asked for data on the Generación D project, including data on the final implementation of the project, the list of subcontractors and the amount of money each subcontractor received?
2. How does it view EU funds being used for projects like this one, with salaries well above the market average and a budget that is at odds with the quality of the programme?

Submitted: 7.2.2025

**Joint answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(6 May 2025)**

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is a performance-based programme. Member States put forward a Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), which includes a set of national reforms and investments and accompanying milestones and targets.

The assessment of these national recovery and resilience plans by the Commission is carried out in line with the criteria outlined in the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation ⁽¹⁾.

In the context of payment requests, the Commission verifies the satisfactory fulfilment of the milestones and targets. Disbursements are made only if the milestones and targets established in the annex of the Council Implementing Decision approving the plan are fulfilled.

Based on public information available to the Commission, Radiotelevisión Española (RTVE) has received funding from Spain within the framework of the implementation of Target 292: Digital training for employment of the Council Implementing Decision approving the RRP.

The objective of this measure is to strengthen the digital skills of the employed (notably in the administration) and of the unemployed.

The target consists in providing training on digital skills of at least 150 hours to 300 000 people. The target falls under the ninth payment request.

This payment request is expected to be submitted by Spain in 2026. The Commission will assess the completion of the target at that time.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10150-2021-ADD-1-REV-1/en/pdf>