

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001308/26
to the Commission**

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(30 March 2026)

Subject: Geo-blocking restricts the rights of linguistic minorities on the internal market

The 2020 evaluation of Regulation (EU) 2018/302 ⁽¹⁾ on addressing unjustified geo-blocking showed that an increasing number of residents, particularly young people, feel restricted on the internal market when it comes to accessing audiovisual content from other EU countries. The fact that audiovisual content is exempt from geo-blocking rules is a problem, particularly for people who belong to linguistic minorities or who live in border regions.

Parliament has called on the Commission to present concrete solutions. In its 2025 report, the European Court of Auditors calls on the Commission to investigate how the regulation can be expanded.

In this regard:

1. In its work on discussing industry-led solutions, has the Commission specifically discussed solutions to enable access to audiovisual content for linguistic minorities and residents in border regions?
2. The Commission's response to the Court of Auditors states that it will continue to analyse a potential extension and its effects, 'focusing on specific categories of works and/or distribution models'. What categories and models is the Commission referring to?
3. Has the Commission been in direct dialogue with representatives from the border regions and linguistic minorities that are most affected by this restriction?

Submitted: 30.3.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 June 2026)

The Commission is committed to, within the remit of its competences, upholding fundamental rights, including the right to non-discrimination on grounds of language and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, as enshrined under Articles 21 and 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The Commission is aware of the challenges linguistic minorities face in accessing audiovisual content in their native tongue and in cross-border regions. In 2022, the Commission organised a stakeholder dialogue to explore industry-led solutions to enhance access to audiovisual content across borders, inviting the Federal Union of European Nationalities. Different proposals were discussed, including proposals to facilitate access to audiovisual content for linguistic minorities ⁽¹⁾.

Following the recommendation of the Court of Auditors, the Commission will launch a study to further analyse the benefits, challenges and possible risks of extending the scope of the Geo-blocking Regulation ⁽²⁾ to audiovisual services ⁽³⁾, taking into account the European Parliament's Resolution on the implementation of the 2018 Geo-blocking Regulation ⁽⁴⁾, which suggested considering a gradual approach targeting specific type and distribution models of the audiovisual sector.

The Commission regularly engages with representatives from linguistic minorities and border regions. The Commission welcomed the participation of these stakeholders in the recent call for evidence and public consultation ⁽⁵⁾ organised in the context of the ongoing evaluation of the Geo-blocking Regulation.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2018 on addressing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market and amending Regulations (EC) No 2006/2004 and (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive 2009/22/EC, OJ L 60I, 2.3.2018, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/302/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Staff Working Document on the impact of the Geo-blocking Regulation and progress in further reducing cross-border barriers, SWD(2024) 196 final.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2018 on addressing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market and amending Regulations (EC) No 2006/2004 and (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive 2009/22/EC, OJ L 60I, 2.3.2018, pp. 1-15.

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/access-and-availability-audiovisual-content>.

⁽⁴⁾ European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2023 on the implementation of the 2018 Geo-blocking Regulation in the digital single market.

⁽⁵⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-launches-evaluation-geo-blocking-regulation-2025-02-11_en.