



FRANS TIMMERMANS
First Vice-President

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Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2018, also addressed to Commissioners Vestager, Gabriel and Navracsics, in which you express your concerns with regard to the creation in Hungary, in late November 2018, of the 'Central European Press and Media Foundation' (KESMA), and the effect of this development on media pluralism in the country, and the alleged violation of antitrust laws.

You request the Commission, as Guardian of the Treaties, to take immediate action.

The Commission is aware of the creation of this foundation and of the fact that the Hungarian Competition Authority and the Hungarian Media Council appear to have been excluded from scrutiny of this operation. Reference to this latest development was made, in a preliminary manner, in the context of the discussion on the Article 7 rule of law procedure against Hungary, at the General Affairs Council of 11 December 2018, where I referred to the creation of KESMA as another worrying development.

I will ensure that the relevant Commission services continue to monitor the situation, with a view to providing an analysis of the matter in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Frans Timmermans

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