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Digital Single Market

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Commission asks Court of Justice to fine Belgium over non-transparent "must-carry" TV and radio rules

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The European Commission is asking the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to impose a fine on Belgium because it has not correctly implemented EU telecom rules when awarding "must-carry" status to broadcast content, even after the Court's judgement of March 2011. "Must-carry" rules require cable companies or telecom operators to carry specified radio and TV broadcast channels and services where a significant number of consumers use them as their principal means to receive radio or TV broadcasts. The Commission is suggesting a lump sum calculated on the basis of €5397/day for the period between the first and eventual second Court ruling and a daily penalty payment of €31 251.20 for each day after the second Court ruling until Belgium complies with the judgment.

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