

Digital Single Market

Commission welcomes French regulator's moves against incitement to hatred; ends legal action

Press releases 28/10/2010

The European Commission has welcomed the fact that France is now correctly applying the EU's broadcasting rules and has decided to close an infringement case related to incitement to hatred by Al-Aqsa TV. On a regular basis since 2006, Al-Aqsa TV broadcast programmes which incited hatred on the basis of religion, nationality and/or race. Such incitement is prohibited by Article 6 of the EU's Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS) Directive. Following measures taken against the satellite operator by the French audiovisual regulatory authority, the CSA, Al-Aqsa TV is no longer broadcasting in Europe via the Eutelsat satellite. The CSA acted following a 'letter of formal notice' under EU infringement procedures which the Commission sent to the French authorities in June this year. The Commission will continue to monitor new developments in close cooperation with the national authorities.

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