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Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) et Démocrates Européens au Parlement européen
Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) und europäischer Demokraten im Europäischen Parlament
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats in the European Parliament
Gruppo del Partito Popolare Europeo (Democratici Cristiani) e Democratici Europei al Parlamento Europeo
Fractie van de Europese Volkspartij (Christen-democraten) en Europese Democraten in het Europees Parlement
Κ.Ο. του Ευρωπαϊκού Λαϊκού Κόμματος (Χριστιανοδημοκράτες) και Ευρωπαίων Δημοκρατών στο Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο
Grupo del Partido Popular Europeo (Demócrata-Cristianos) y Demócratas Europeos en el Parlamento Europeo
Grupo do Partido Popular Europeu (Democratas-Cristãos) e Democratas Europeus no Parlamento Europeu
Euroopan kansanpuolueen (kristillisdemokraatit) ja Euroopan demokraattien ryhmä Euroopan Parlamentissa
Gruppen for Det Europæiske Folkeparti (Kristelige Demokrater) og de Europæiske Demokrater i Europa-parlamentet
Gruppen för Europeiska folkpartiet (kristdemokrater) och Europademokraterna i Europaparlamentet

Secrétariat - Sekretariat - Secretariat - Segretariato - Secretariaat - Γραμματεία
Secretaria - Secretariado - Sekretariat - Sihteeristö - Sekretariat

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Lord Bethell, Arie Oostlander and Bernd Posselt
on behalf of the EPP- ED group

on the jailing of Russian military journalist Grigorii Pasko and the closure of TV-6

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions in support of Russian military journalist Grigorii Pasko who, in an earlier trial in 1999, was acquitted of espionage but found guilty on lesser charges. Pasko appealed the verdict, but so did the prosecutors, insisting he was a spy. Subsequently, the Supreme Court reversed its decision and ordered another trial,
- having regard to the fact that independence and plurality of the news media are a key element in the democratic values upon which the strategic partnership between The European Union and Russia is founded,
- while remaining in full support with the agreement between the European Union and the Russian federation on the common fight against terrorism,

- A. deeply concerned and stunned by the jailing of Grigorii Pasko who in a new trial on 25 December 2001 was found guilty of "high treason in the form of espionage" by the military court of the Russian Pacific Fleet in Vladivostok, who stripped Pasko also of his military rank of captain (second class) and ruled that he should pay for the cost of the trial;
- B. notes that Pasko and his lawyer Anatolii Pushkin deny the charges stressing that the trials were punishment for Pasko's reports on environmental abuses by the Russian navy and that the verdict was passed under open pressure from the Federal Security Service (FSB) and was based on false evidence fabricated by that agency;

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- C. notes that the newly elected leader of Russia's upper house of parliament and a strong ally of Russian President Putin, Sergei Mironov, on 26 December 2001 criticized the jailing of Grigorii Pasko, saying he now understands "how a man feels who is condemned for something he is not guilty of";
 - D. notes the growing public support of Grigorii Pasko in Russia culminating in a 10 January picketing of the buildings of the FSB department for the Pacific Fleet, the Pacific Fleet military prosecutor's office and the Pacific Fleet military court;
 - E. notes that the defence of Grigorii Pasko has filed an appeal against the verdict and is seeking a full acquittal;
 - F. seriously concerned about other events affecting the Russian media and especially the decision by Russia's highest arbitration court to close down the last national independent television station TV-6 resulting in a considerable impoverishment of the Russian audiovisual panorama;
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- 1. while respecting the decisions of the judicial institutions of the Russian Federation calls on Russia's prosecutor-general, Vladimir Ustinov, to look at ways and means to revise the judgement of the court in Vladivostok;
 - 2. calls on Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, to ensure full freedom and plurality of the news media in the country and to rein in the secret services;
 - 3. calls on the Council to express the European Union's concerns and to protest to the Russian Government about the worsening of the situation in the field of press freedoms and civil rights in Russia;

ARH
EPP-ED-drft-Pasko