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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

pursuant to Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by Jannis SAKELLARIOU, Constanze KREHL, Catherine Lalumière

on behalf of the PSE Group

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

PE

314.810

Resolution 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,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation, providing for a political dialogue between the two partners
 - 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;
- 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;
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;
 3. calls upon its colleagues in the DUMA to use their political weight in order to insure the freedom of the press and in particular the rights of journalists in order to guarantee the right for information of the population of their country;
 4. 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;

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