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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Question B5-0499/2002

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Enrique Barón Crespo, Karin Junker, Jo Leinen, Barbara O'Toole, Reino Paasilinna, Michel Rocard, Demetrio Volcic and Phillip Whitehead

on behalf of the PSE Group

on media concentration

European Parliament resolution on media concentration

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Directive 89/552/EEC¹ of 3 October 1989 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities, as amended by Directive 97/36/EC² of 20 June 1997 and, in particular, Article 4 thereof concerning promotion of the distribution and production of television programmes,
 - having regard to the European Commission's Green Paper dated 23 December 1992 entitled 'Pluralism and the concentration of mass media in the internal market' (COM(92) 480),
 - having regard to its resolution of 20 January 1994³ on the Commission's Green Paper where it came down in favour of the III/C option and asked the Commission to draft a proposal for a directive aimed at harmonising national restrictions concerning the concentration of media ownership,
 - having regard to its resolution 27 October 1994⁴ on concentration of the media and pluralism,
 - having regard to Recommendation R (99) 1 of 19 January 1999 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe addressed to Member States on measures to promote media pluralism,
 - having regard to the conclusions of 30 March 2000 of the Economic and Social Committee on 'Pluralism and media concentration' and, in particular, to point 2.1 thereof⁵,
- A. whereas the European Union is bound by its treaties to a general and absolute obligation to protect human and civil rights as well as freedom of expression as a fundamental right across the democratic world,
- B. whereas the European Union has confirmed its commitment to media pluralism and freedom of information in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 11(2)),
- C. whereas, in the commercial media sector, market and technological evolution, where

¹ OJ L 298, 17.10.1989.

² OJ L 202, 30.7.1997, p. 60.

³ OJ C 44, 14.2.1994, p. 177.

⁴ OJ C 323, 21.11.1994, p. 157.

⁵ OJ C 140, 18.5.2000, p. 19.

unregulated, might lead to dangerous concentrations and jeopardise pluralism, democracy and cultural diversity,„

- D. whereas, with enlargement imminent, a European regulation in this domain appears particularly necessary in order to place democratic principles at the basis of an enlarged Europe,
1. Underlines the fact that current affairs, especially news, and particularly televised news, is a sector of capital importance where the excessive power generated by the presence of a predominant single operator in this market may endanger the proper functioning of civil and democratic life, quite apart from its implications for competition policy in the internal market;
 2. Observes that this type of phenomenon tends to be more and more frequent in many European countries;
 3. Calls for a debate on the concept of ‘pure editor’ in European legislation, for interests exclusively concentrated in the media sector and not extending to other economic areas;
 4. Calls on the European Commission to draw up a directive which outlines the limits of media ownership and distribution at European level, taking into account developments at national level, which should be based on market share, as calculated on audience share or circulation; emphasises that such an EU directive is needed not only to safeguard pluralism and freedom of expression but also to preserve and encourage cultural diversity;
 5. Calls on the Commission to submit to the Convention on the Future of Europe an appropriate proposal so that the principle of freedom of the media may be given a stronger basis in the Treaty;
 6. Calls on the European Commission to propose limits on the appropriate use of publicity resources in order to guarantee free competition and to promote the start-up of cultural television channels and the production of quality programmes on the public and commercial networks;
 7. Calls on the European Commission to promote a Code of Conduct which influences media content and clarifies the rights of workers in the media industry;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the Economic and Social Committee and the Council of Europe and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the applicant countries.