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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Questions B5-0499/2002, B5-0500/2002 and B5-0501/2002

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

by Raina A. Mercedes Echerer, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit, Monica Frassoni,
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on behalf of the Verts/ALE 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 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 which concerns the promotion of the distribution and the production of television programmes,
 - having regard to the European Commission's Green Paper dated 23 December 1992 (COM(92) 480) and entitled 'Pluralism and the media concentration in the internal market',
 - 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 on the concentration of media ownership,
 - having regard to its resolution⁴ of 27 October 1994 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,
 - having regard to Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights,
 - having regard to Protocol 32 annexed to the Treaty of Amsterdam,
- A. whereas the European Union has confirmed its commitment to media pluralism and freedom of information in the Treaty on European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 11(2)) and the European Convention,
- B. whereas media pluralism is essential for the freedom of the media,
- C. whereas the continuous process of media concentration and the emergence of media

¹ OJ L 298, 17.10.1989.

² OJ L 202, 30.07.1997, p. 60.

³ OJ C 44, 14.02.1994, p. 177.

⁴ OJ C 323, 21.11.1994, p. 157.

⁵ OJ C 140, 18.5.2000, p. 19.

monopolies are a threat to media pluralism,

- D. whereas national opinion monopolies influence national governments and, in so doing, influence the European Union's decision-making process,
 - E. whereas competition law instruments, at both European and national level, acknowledge the complementary nature of specific rules on media diversity and pluralism,
 - F. whereas the new regulatory framework for electronic communications seeks to safeguard effective competition through the possible regulation of access issues and provide for transparency, consultation and harmonisation procedures,
 - G. whereas, within the scope of their powers and responsibilities, the NRAs are permitted to undertake the task of safeguarding traditional media policy goals such as pluralism,
 - H. whereas the problem of dominant opinion-forming power is not covered sufficiently by instruments such as the regulatory framework for electronic communications and the NRAs,
 - I. whereas pure or sector-specific competition policy instruments at European Community level do not provide for adequate remedies in cases which fall outside their scope,
 - J. whereas, in the light of the forthcoming enlargement of the EU, digitalisation and technological convergence, the various kinds of media concentration (horizontal, vertical, diagonal and conglomerate) are a European phenomenon and should be dealt with at European level,
 - K. whereas horizontal, vertical, diagonal and conglomerate media concentration is having a serious impact on society, politics, the economy and the market itself, such as increased amalgamation of reporting and advertising, corporate-journalism, cross-subsidisation and cross-promotion within a company, increased market-access barriers, loss of job alternatives for journalists, risk of impoverishment of political discourse, decline of competition as a result of vertical concentration, and regression of diversity at supplier level,
1. Calls on the Commission to safeguard media pluralism in an environment of increasing media concentration and monopolies;
 2. Calls on the Commission to draw up a framework directive on media concentration so as to safeguard media pluralism and ensure that media in all the Member States remain free and diversified;
 3. Calls on the Commission to provide for the possibility of media policy being included within the scope of the Convention;
 4. Calls on the Commission to draw up a study on the distortion of the market as a consequence of the diversity of existing EU laws concerning property and media control;
 5. Calls on the Commission to draw up a study into the presence and commercial activity of public TV stations in the internal market;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.