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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

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on the risk of a serious breach of the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and of information in Italy

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Motion for a resolution on the risk of a serious breach of the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and of information in Italy

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the Union is based on respect for the fundamental rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR),
- B. whereas Article 10 of the ECHR safeguards the fundamental right of freedom of expression, which is also to be interpreted as freedom to receive or communicate information or ideas without any interference from public authorities,
- C. whereas several sources, both public (European Parliament, Council of Europe, UN) and private (EU Network of Independent Experts on Human Rights, European Federation of Journalists, Reporters sans Frontières, Articolo 21 Liberi di, and the international press), have deprecated the critical situation which has developed in Italy, where Mr Berlusconi, as Prime Minister and businessman, controls the entire spectrum of public and private radio and TV broadcasting, newspapers, publishing houses and advertising,
- D. whereas this ongoing situation, which has been marked by several incidents that breach the rules governing freedom of expression, has been considered by the parliamentary committee concerned, and whereas there are adequate grounds for initiating the procedure referred to in Article 7(1) of the EU Treaty,
 - 1. Proposes to the Council that it take steps to assess whether there is a risk of a breach of the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and of information set out in Article 10 of the ECHR and in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (on pluralism of information) adopted by the EU institutions in Nice in December 2000.