

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Elisabeth Schroedter and Marianne Isler-Beguin

on behalf of the Green/EFA Group

on Ukraine

**European parliament resolution on Ukraine**

*The European parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine,
  - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and Ukraine, which entered into force on 1 March 1998,
  - having regard to the Common Strategy of the European Union on Ukraine, adopted by the European Council in Helsinki on 11 December 1999,
  - having regard to the Joint Statement of the Ukraine-European Union Summit of 7 October 2003,
  - having regard to the Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on proposals for constitutional change in Ukraine of 29 January 2004,
  - having regard to the Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the Political crisis in Ukraine, adopted on 29 January 2004,
  - having regard to the Final Statement and Recommendations of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of 16-17 February 2004,
- A. Stressing that the Wider Europe- New Neighbourhood policy of the EU acknowledges the aspirations of Ukraine to step up relations with the EU providing the framework for its deeper integration into the European structures,
- B. Taking note of Ukraine's ambitions for association and possible future EU membership in the long term,
- C. Having regard to the ongoing preparation of the Action Plan on the part of the Commission due to be ready in Spring 2004 which should include proposals aimed at encouraging the political and institutional reforms which will enable Ukraine to integrate progressively in EU policies and programmes,
- D. Pointing out that a genuine and balanced partnership can only develop on shared common values with regard, in particular, to democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights,
- E. Looking forward to the Presidential elections of October 2004 which must be conducted in a reformed legal framework that should allow a free and fair electoral process in terms of campaigning and media coverage,
- F. Having regard to the decision of Ukrainian authorities to force off the air Radio Kontynent which rebroadcasts several Western radio programmes and to the decision to terminate in February the rebroadcasting of Radio Liberty on Dovira radio station after this station was taken over by a pro-government news organisation,

G. Highly concerned at the increasing pressure and restrictions on independent media that do not follow government line and the possible passage of major constitutional changes that would disadvantage the opposition,

H. whereas poor prison conditions, arbitrary detention and excessively long periods of pre-trial detention in Ukraine remain serious problems,

I. whereas the Constitutional Courts ruling on the recent constitutional reforms have shown the vulnerability of the independence of the judiciary in Ukraine,

1. Calls on the Government of Ukraine to respect freedom of expression and undertake sustained and effective measures to prevent and punish official censorship, arbitrary administrative and legal actions against television stations and other media outlets and harassment of and violence against journalists;

2. Urges, in particular, the Ukrainian authorities to reverse their decisions and allow Radio Kontynent and Dovira radio to broadcast freely their programmes including the rebroadcasting of Western radios and to lift undue restrictions on independent media;

3. Calls on the Ukrainian government to make all efforts so as to clarify the suspicious circumstances over the death of media chief Yuriy Chechyk as well as the other high profile journalists victim of road accidents or death in bizzare circumstances;

4. Calls on the Commission to draft an Action Plan for Ukraine focused on media freedom and freedom of expression with clear benchmarks to be implemented in the short and medium term;

5. Urges the Commission to step up TACIS-democracy programmes so as to strengthen civil society and independent media and support the consolidation of democratic institutions;

6. Welcomes the rejection by the Ukrainian parliament of the draft law on amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine and the efforts of the opposition in this respect;

7. Urges the Council and the Commission to monitor closely the situation in Ukraine in the run-up to the presidential elections of next Autumn supporting the action of the OSCE/ODHIR and the Council of Europe;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the Government and Parliament of Ukraine.