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B5-0141/04

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 Charles Tannock, Gabriela Stauner and Bernd Posselt

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on Ukraine

PE 342.505

B5-0141/2004

European parliament resolution on Ukraine

The European parliament,

- having regard to its previous Resolutions on Ukraine, in particular the one of 15 March 2001,
 - 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. whereas the Wider Europe-Neighbourhood policy of the EU recognises the importance of Ukraine as a country with deep historical, cultural and economic links to the member states of the EU,
- B. whereas poor prison conditions, arbitrary detention and excessively long periods of pre-trial detention in Ukraine remain serious problems,
- C. whereas there are serious violations of media freedom in Ukraine like official censorship, arbitrary administrative and legal actions against television stations and other media outlets and harassment of and violence against journalists,
- D. whereas recently broadcasts from Radio Liberty have been stopped by the new management of privately-owned Radio Davidora, the largest opposition newspaper Silski Visty was closed down and the authorities have launched a campaign against the Fifth Channel, thereby raising fears of the opposition of further government interference in the freedom of the press,
- E. whereas the recent constitutional changes which have a serious impact on democracy in Ukraine, have been modified in part by the Ukrainian parliament after the opposition had demanded the annulment of an earlier irregular parliamentary vote,
- F. 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 Ukrainian authorities to improve prison conditions, end arbitrary detention and excessively long periods of pre-trial detention;
2. Calls on the Government of Ukraine to respect freedom of expression and undertake sustained and effective measures to prevent official censorship, arbitrary administrative and legal actions against television stations and other media outlets and harassment of and violence against journalists;
3. Calls on the Government of Ukraine to clarify allegations that its secret service was instructed to spy on journalists, and even a Member of the European Parliament, in their respective home countries, in order to discourage them, if necessary, from continuing to take up human rights issues in Ukraine;
4. Calls on the Government of Ukraine to combat alleged illegal trafficking in human organs, parts of organs and tissues, but also in the illegal trafficking of human beings, especially of children;
5. Is concerned about the recent closure of the newspaper Silsky Visti, the temporary interruption of Radio Liberty broadcasts and the campaign against the Fifth Channel;
6. Welcomes the rejection by the Ukrainian parliament of part of the draft law on amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine and the efforts of the opposition in this respect;
7. Is concerned about the Constitutional Courts ruling on the recent constitutional reforms and the independence of the judiciary in Ukraine;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Government and Parliament of Ukraine.