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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 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Gisela Kallenbach, Joost Lagendijk and Angelika Beer on behalf of the Green/Efa group

on the harassment of minorities in the province of Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro

European parliament resolution on the harassment of minorities in the province of Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro

The European parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 16 September 2004 on the harassment of minorities in Vojvodina (P6_TA-PROV(2004)0016),
 - having regard to the report dated 2 March 2005 on a fact-finding mission by the *ad hoc* delegation of the European Parliament in Vojvodina and Belgrade (29-31 January 2005),
 - having regard to the Communication from the Commission of 12 April 2005 on the preparedness of Serbia and Montenegro to negotiate a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union (COM(2005)476),
 - having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas violent incidents continue to occur in the province of Vojvodina, in Serbia, including harassment and physical assault of non-ethnic Serbs, threats against ethnic Hungarian political leaders, including a hand grenade attack against the president of one of the ethnic Hungarian political parties on 30 August 2005,
 - B. whereas in the past two and a half years the central and local authorities of Serbia have failed to restore full public order in the region, to ensure respect for fundamental human rights including for those of ethnic and national minorities, and to bring the perpetrators to justice,
 - C. whereas the government of Serbia has failed to set up two committees dealing respectively with individual ethnically motivated incidents and the ethnic relations in general, at variance with the declarations of Mr. Kostunica in September 2004,
 - D. whereas no progress has been made so as to enhance the participation of national minorities in the public administration, law enforcement authorities, judicial system and higher education,
 - E. whereas Serbia and Montenegro is bound by international and European conventions on human rights and must secure their full implementation, as a condition for further progress towards integration with the European Union,
 - F. whereas the European Union and its Member States have made considerable political, financial and human investments for the consolidation of the region and repeatedly and consistently have been calling for the respect of fundamental values and minority rights throughout the region,
- 1. Expresses deep concern at the repeated breaches of human rights and the lack of law and order in the province of Vojvodina,

2. Appeals to the government of Serbia to take adequate measures to address the recurring problem of politically and ethnically motivated violence in the region,
3. Continues to closely monitor developments in Vojvodina in the context of negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement requesting regular consultations with the Commission and Council during the procedure,
4. Reminds the governments of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and of Serbia that the observance of the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law is a pre-requisite for the European Parliament's assent to the conclusion of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and future partnership with the European Union in general,
5. Supports a public hearing on the minority and political situation in Vojvodina organised by its Inter-parliamentary Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South-East Europe,
6. Reaffirms its willingness to use its budgetary powers to both aid and pressure Serbia and Montenegro in order to ensure compliance with fundamental human rights and freedoms, including minority rights,
7. Calls on the Council, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Commission to closely monitor developments in this regard,
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of Serbia and of the Serbia and Montenegro State Union.