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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Jan Marinus Wiersma, Hannes Swoboda, Józef Pinior and Reino Paasilinna

on behalf of the PSE Group

on EU-Russia relations after the murder of Anna Politkovskaya

European Parliament resolution on EU-Russia relations after the murder of Anna Politkovskaya

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its earlier resolutions and declarations on the harassment, threatening and killing of journalists,
 - having regard to the EU Presidency statement on the killing of Anna Politkovskaya,
 - having regard to the EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which entered into force on 1 December 1997, with negotiations on a new agreement due to start this year,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya was killed in the elevator of her apartment block on Saturday, 7 October 2006, being shot in a manner consistent with a contract killing,
- B. whereas Anna Politkovskaya published many articles and several books on the human rights situation in Russia, and in Chechnya and the Northern Caucasus in particular,
- C. whereas Anna Politkovskaya was also a dedicated defender of human rights in Russia and gave effective support to the victims of human rights violations, particularly in Chechnya,
- D. whereas, also, the commercial director of the Itar-Tass press agency, Anatoly Voronin, was killed in his apartment on 16 October 2006,
- E. whereas journalists in Russia and other parts of the world are under increasing threat for exposing violations of human rights,
- F. whereas freedom of the media, effective protection of independent journalists and full support for the work of human rights organisations are an essential element in the democratic development of a country,
1. Pays tribute to Anna Politkovskaya as a courageous journalist and a brave and dedicated defender of human rights, who spoke out fearlessly against violence and injustice and campaigned tirelessly to see justice done;
 2. Expresses its deepest sympathy to Anna Politkovskaya's family, friends and colleagues in journalism and the human rights movement;
 3. Strongly condemns the killing of Anna Politkovskaya and all other journalists and human rights defenders who have been killed for freely exposing serious violations of human rights and unacceptable cases of injustice;

4. Calls on the Russian authorities to carry out a full and thorough investigation of this shocking crime and to do everything in their power to bring the perpetrators to justice;
5. Calls on the Russian authorities to fight actively against intimidation of independent journalists and human rights activists and to give full protection to independent journalists who expose serious cases of injustice in their country and to human rights organisations and their representatives who defend the victims of human rights violations;
6. Calls on the Russian authorities to guarantee freedom of the media and to allow the free operation of local and international human rights organisations on its territory;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to the President, Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.