



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Plenary sitting

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B7-0190/2011

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on media law in Hungary

**József Szájer, Manfred Weber, Simon Busuttil, Marco Scurria, Kinga Gál,
Salvatore Iacolino**
on behalf of the PPE Group

European Parliament resolution on media law in Hungary

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Union’s provisions on fundamental freedoms, and in particular to Articles 2, 3 and 6 of the Treaty on the European Union and to Articles 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights on non discrimination and press freedom,
 - having regard to the Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive),
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas freedom of expression and information constitutes one of the essential foundations of European democratic societies, recognised in the European Treaties and in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights,
- B. whereas on 21 December 2010 a two-thirds majority in the Hungarian Parliament passed the new Media Law (CLXXXV of 2010), which replaces an outdated collection of media regulations and introduced new provisions linked to new technologies in line with the Audiovisual Media Services Directive,
- C. whereas on 23 December 2010, two days after the adoption of the law, the European Commissioner in charge, Mrs Neelie Kroes, wrote a letter to the Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister of Public Administration and Justice, Mr Tibor Navracsics expressing concerns on the competence and independence of the new Media Authority and on the registration of media established in the new Hungarian Media Law,
- D. whereas on 27 December 2010 in its answer to the letter the Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister expressed willingness to cooperate in order to clarify the content and reason of the new law, i.e. to create a more transparent and efficient media regulation system and to protect more effectively human dignity, with reinforcing child protection and the presence of national and ethnic minorities in public service broadcasting, and restricting the possibility of hate-speech,
- E. whereas on 5 January 2011 the Hungarian Minister, Mr Navracsics sent to the European Commission the English version of the Media Law and ensured the commitment of the Republic of Hungary to the respect for the democratic European values of freedom of speech and freedom of the press,
- F. whereas at the beginning of January 2011 the Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared that the Hungarian Government will modify the Media Law in line with the remarks made by the European Commission,

- G. whereas the Commissioner in charge in its official letter from 21 January 2011 identified three areas for clarification: the question of balanced coverage; the territorial scope and the requirement of registration; whereas the Hungarian government's reply to the Commission was sent on the 31st January with detailed clarification and repeatedly confirmed willingness to carry out negotiations on the new law, and modify the text if proven necessary,
- H. whereas on 7 February 2011 the negotiations between the Commission and government experts took place successfully and came to an agreement on carrying out modifications in the law in four items: registration of blogs, services provided from other countries, the requirements for balanced coverage and offensive content,
1. Affirms that the freedom and pluralism of the media guaranteed in Hungary by the Media Constitution (CIV of 2010) and Media Law and the freedom of the press and of information is an established principle in the daily life of every Hungarian citizen;
 2. Deplores the premature and unjustified attacks to the Hungarian Government especially timed on the occasion of the beginning of the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union;
 3. Underlines that the Commission's findings, as the guardian of the Treaties, checked the compatibility of the new Hungarian Media Law with the relevant European legislation;
 4. Welcomes the agreement between the Commission and the Hungarian Government to modify the Hungarian Media Law as requested. Welcomes the exceptionally fast decision of the Hungarian Government to modify the Media Law and welcomes the adoption of the modifications by the Hungarian Parliament in the upcoming days. Expresses disappointment that the Hungarian Socialist Party in the Hungarian Parliament opposed the urgency vote on the agreed amendments;
 5. Welcomes the views of the European Commission expressed by Commissioner Kroes during the debate on the Hungarian Media Law in the plenary session of the European Parliament that the amended version of the Law 'complies with all aspects of EU law' including concerns raised regarding the Charter of Fundamental Rights;
 6. Declares that a resolution against the Hungarian Media Law has no justified reason any more; expresses therefore disappointment as to the manipulative and politically motivated comments often out of content on the Hungarian Media Law and the Hungarian Government, and considers that this unfounded criticism aims to weaken the Hungarian Presidency this way do harm to EU as a whole facing its biggest challenges since its creation;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and the President of the Republic of Hungary.