EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Maria Petre, Joseph Daul, Tunne Kelam, Theodor Stolojan and Marian-Jean Marinescu

on the continuation of broadcasting by the television channel PRO TV in Moldova

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

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Written declaration on the continuation of broadcasting by the television channel PRO TV in Moldova

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, signed and proclaimed on 7 December 2000, which defends the freedom and pluralism of the media,
- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Union is built on and defined by the principles of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,
- B. whereas freedom of expression, not least that of the media, including the internet, is often under serious threat in Moldova,
- C. whereas PRO TV is one of the rare impartial Moldovan television channels and has been broadcasting in Moldova since 1998,
- 1. Urges the Moldovan Government and the Chisinau Audiovisual Coordinating Council to extend PRO TV's licence in Moldova, as is provided for by law;
- 2. Invites the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures to put right this injustice in the framework of negotiations on the new EU-Moldova partnership agreement in order to support access to information for millions of Moldovan citizens;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.