

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on local radio stations

The European Parliament.

- whereas a sensible media policy is an essential element of cultural and social life,
 - whereas the Member States should delegate such a policy to the various regions, particularly in the case of border areas and all regions which have an individual ethnic culture,
 - noting the increase in the number of free local radio stations,
 - considering that this is a positive development, as such stations may complement national and regional stations,
 - noting that, notwithstanding the need to regionalize media policy, the emergence of free local radio stations, however much they may promote and cement community life in the cities and provide opportunities for social regeneration, should not lead to uncontrolled proliferation, particularly as from the technical point of view, there are insufficient broadcasting facilities available,
 - faced with a total lack of harmony in the legislation of the various Member States,
1. Calls on the Commission to draw up a recommendation making free local radio stations subject to effective rules, the implementation of which can be monitored;
 2. Considers that rules of this kind should take account of the population density of a given area (for example, countryside, town or city), assuming an average transmission range of 8 km, and at the same time of justified demands for broadcasting facilities on the part of cultural or ethnic minorities, who should of course be given larger-range facilities;
 3. Calls on the Commission to investigate the practicability of involving the local population in the programme planning of free local radio stations so that the latter do not indulge in 'plugging' records or become recognized one-man stations;
 4. Asks that the investigation should take account of the principle that a recognized free local radio station has three functions to fulfil, namely entertainment, information and education.