
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

19 September 1980

DOCUMENT 1-422/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SCHINZEL, Mr GABERT, Mr VAN MINNEN,
Mr LINKOHR, Mr WALTER, Mr Gerhard SCHMID,
Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL, Mr RUFFOLO, Mr PULETTI,
Mr SCHWENCKE, Mr WOLTJER, Mr CABORN, Mr SEELER,
Mrs WEBER, Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING, Mr WETTIG,
Mr SCHIELER, Mrs HOFF, Mr HÄNSCH, Mr WAGNER,
Mr PETERS, Mr LINDE, Mrs FUILLET, Mr J. MOREAU,
Mr GLINNE, Mr ESTIER, Mr BOYES, Mr DIDÓ',
Mr PELIKAN, Mrs LIZIN, Mrs SALISCH, Mr ADAM,
Mr GRIFFITHS, Miss QUIN, Mr SEEFELD, Mr RADOUX,
Mr COLIA and Mr FERRI

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the threat to diversity of opinion posed
by the commercialization of new media

The European Parliament,

- aware of the great importance of the new media in shaping the future, e.g. through satellite television, communication by cable, etc.,
 - deeply concerned at the massive efforts being made to introduce new media for commercial use,
 - having regard to the consequent risk of greater commercialization of all the media and the associated threat to the freedom of information and to our democracies,
 - wishing to promote the exchange of information,
 - having regard to the 1978 UNESCO resolution which recognizes each country's right to national identity specifically in matters of media policy,
 - in the knowledge that Luxembourg and Switzerland intend to broadcast by satellite special television commercials directed at neighbouring countries,
 - having regard to the decision by the European Court of Justice that the restriction of commercial broadcasting is compatible with the EEC Treaty if it is imposed on the grounds that it is in the public interest,
 - wishing to prevent programmes being reduced to a vehicle for advertising,
 - conscious that public radio and television companies, such as those existing in the Federal Republic of Germany, form an important part of the democratic community,
 - conscious that radio and television broadcasting across frontiers for commercial purposes represents a major threat to the press in our Member States.
1. Asks the Commission and the Council to submit without delay a report on the situation and the development of the media in the Community (media report);
 2. Calls upon the Commission and the Council to take appropriate steps, in the light of the two rulings of the Court of Justice concerning cable television in Belgium, in respect of all the Member States with a view to shaping the future structure of the media and
 3. To reject any transfrontier measures which endanger public or other similar, independently organized, radio and television broadcasting companies such as those in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands, and
 4. To submit to the European Parliament a proposal for European rules on radio and television broadcasting based on consultations with consumers, consumer organizations (trade unions, associations, etc.) and existing companies. These rules should also ensure that the 'new media' help citizens to take a more active part in the information process, enhance their powers of judgment and develop their social potential. The aim must be to ensure diversity in the choice of programmes, but also to avoid economic power structures;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of the Member States and UNESCO.