

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



session documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by LANGER and AELVOET

on behalf of the Green Group

on the survival of the Belgrade newspaper Borba

DOC_EN\RE\262\262743

PE 186.332
Or. de

- * Consultation procedure
simple majority
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to give assent
except for simple majority under Articles 8a, 105, 106, 130d and 228 EC

- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members either to adopt a declaration of intent to reject the common position, or to amend or confirm the rejection of the common position
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
simple majority to approve the joint text
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject the Council text

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The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to its frequent calls to support the free media throughout the former Yugoslavia,
- B. whereas, for more than ten years, the Belgrade daily newspaper Borba has been an important independent, critical and democratic source of information and still performs this function under extremely difficult conditions,
- C. whereas in recent weeks, the Belgrade regime's political pressure on Borba has increased enormously and whereas, President Milosevic has been able to isolate critical voices more easily because his international standing has been enhanced through the attitude of certain governments,
- D. whereas the Belgrade government, as a minority shareholder in Borba's publishers, is now taking legal action to destroy the independence of the newspaper and take control of it,
 1. Stresses that it is in the interests of European Democrats that the free media, and in particular the newspaper Borba, continue to operate unobstructed.
 2. Calls on the Commission, the Council and on the governments of the Member States to bring their influence to bear to ensure respect for the independence of Borba.
 3. Reiterates and confirms its conviction that the Commission, the Council and the Member States have thus far completely underestimated the role of free information and the non-nationalist media and have failed to support them in any satisfactory way and that generous resources must be made available for this purpose;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the government of the Yugoslav Federation and the editors of Borba in Belgrade.