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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 113 of the Rules of Procedure

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on the risk of further breaches of the principles of democracy and the rule of law in Italy

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the risk of further breaches of the principles of democracy and the rule of law in Italy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 113 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas since 9 June 2006 the Italian Constitutional Court has been operating without the constitutional plenum of 15 members,
- B. whereas the Constitution strictly lays down the number of members of the Constitutional Court and stipulates that, in the event of a vacancy arising, for whatever reason, it must be filled within one month,
- C. whereas since the elections of 13-14 April the bicameral parliamentary vigilance committee, which is responsible for steering and monitoring the public broadcasting service, has not yet elected its chairman; whereas it is therefore not in a position to carry out the duties conferred on it by the law, and this has direct repercussions on the proper operation of the public broadcasting service, denying political parties regulated access to political broadcasting and news services over several months,
- D. whereas the Constitutional Court and the vigilance committee have a vital role to play in the Italian political system, in guaranteeing respect for the rule of law and democracy,
- E. whereas the paralysis of Italian institutions has now become a recurring phenomenon, irrespective of the government's political make-up,
- 1. Calls on the Council, pursuant to Articles 6 and 7 of the TEU, to determine the existence of a clear risk of further serious breaches of the principles of liberty and democracy in Italy.