

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0083/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

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to the Commission

Subject: Media concentration and pluralism

- The pursuit of television broadcasting activities is regulated by Directive 89/552/EEC¹, as amended by Directive 97/36/EC², and the promotion of distribution and production of television programmes by Article 4 thereof.
- The Commission Green Paper of 23 December 1992 on media concentration (COM(92)0480/final) has never been followed up by a directive.
- In its resolution of 20 January 1994 on the above Green Paper the EP came out in favour of Option III, Sub-option c, as referred to in the Green Paper, and called on the Commission to submit a proposal for a directive to harmonise national restrictions on media concentration³.
- The Commission Green Paper was also the subject of the EP's Fayot report of 5 January 1994 (A3-0435/93).
- On 27 October 1994 the EP adopted a resolution on concentration of the media⁴.
- The ESC has delivered an opinion on 'Pluralism and concentration in the media', the key passage being point 2.1⁵.
- Recommendation R (99) 1, adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 19 January 1999, proposes measures to be implemented by member states to promote media pluralism.
- News, and in particular television news, is an area in which the excessive power of any one player constitutes a serious danger to the workings of civilisation and democracy.
- Phenomena of the type concerned are today tending to occur in a number of European countries.

In the light of the foregoing, will the Commission:

- lay down a body of European rules to govern this sector, as is necessary not least in order to establish some fundamental democratic principles to form the foundations of the enlarged

¹ OJ L 298, 17.10.1989, p. 23.

² OJ L 202, 30.7.1997, p. 60.

³ OJ C 44, 14.2.1994, p. 177.

⁴ OJ C 323, 21.11.1994, p. 157.

⁵ OJ C 140, 18.5.2000, p. 19.

Europe;

- introduce the concept of a 'pure publisher' within the meaning of European legislation to denote a person whose interests are concentrated entirely in the publishing industry and do not extend into other economic circles;
- draw up a directive imposing exact limits on media concentration, applicable both to Europe as a whole and to individual Member States, as regards market shares quantified in terms of audience and circulation?

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