Resolution on media concentration

2002/2600(RSP) - 20/11/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on media concentration. It pointed out that the use of new technologies and their application (Internet, mobile phone services, digital TV, etc.) and continued growth in advertising have developed considerably over the last ten years. In the commercial media sector, market and technological evolution, where unregulated, might lead to dangerous concentrations and jeopardise pluralism, democracy and cultural diversity. Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to safeguard media pluralism and to ensure that the media in all the Member States are free and diversified. It insisted that a European media market should be established to counteract a growing disparity in national anti-concentration rules and stressed the need to secure a level playing field in order to allow for freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services. The European Parliament called on the Commission to do the following: - to launch a broad and comprehensive consultation process, in order to assess the development of new technology and new communications, and notably the impact of mergers, alliances and joint ventures on the internal market and media pluralism, as well as the right to freedom of expression and access by all citizens to the services of the information society, especially through the promotion of interoperability, and to examine the coherence of national and European legislation in this field; - to draw up an updated Green Paper by the end of 2003, setting out those issues, together with the current legal position in the Member States and applicant countries, and likely future developments; - to complete the examination within this parliamentary term of the political, economic and legal implications of a European-level regulatory framework to safeguard freedom of expression and pluralism in the media; - to submit to the European Convention an appropriate proposal so that the principle of freedom of the media may be given a stronger basis in the Treaty.