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B6-0533/2005

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

tabled for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Poli Bortone

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the defence of multiethnicity in the Vojvodina

**B6-0533/2005**

**European parliament resolution on the defence of multiethnicity in the Vojvodina**

*The European parliament,*

- having regard to its resolution of 16 September 2005 on the minorities in the Vojvodina,
- having regard to the parliamentary fact-finding mission in the Vojvodina,
- having regard to the upcoming negotiations on Stability and Association Agreement with Serbia-Montenegro, and the already agreed Feasibility Study on it,

A. Whereas one of the conditions for opening the negotiations of the Stability and Association Agreement with Serbia-Montenegro is the strengthening of democracy and respect of minorities,

B Whereas the EU and its Member States have repeatedly been calling for respect for fundamental values and minority rights in the province of Vojvodina,

C Whereas incidents against human and minority rights are continuously reported from the Vojvodina by political forces and that of the civil society even since the fact-finding mission, including physical and verbal attacks,

B.. whereas no real progress has been made to stop the deterioration of long-term existence of ethnic minorities in the Vojvodina in the fields of education, representation in public administration and the judicial system just as in the police, equal access to fair jurisdiction and the institutions of a state of law,

C. whereas such harassments of minorities breach the financial efforts of the European Union to promote development and prosperity in Vojvodina,

1. Expresses once again its deep concern at the repeated breaches of the rights of minorities in the province of Vojvodina,

2 Continues its own regular monitoring on Vojvodina with special regard to the negotiations on the Stability and Association Agreement, on the basis of which the Parliament demands regular consultations with the Commission during the whole procedure of the negotiations,

3. Supports a public hearing on the minority and political situation in the Vojvodina organized by the SEE Delegation,

4. States that the Parliament uses its budgetary powers to exercise pressure on Serbia-Montenegro to bring it to compliance with the Copenhagen criteria,

5. Asks the Council and the High Representative on Security and Foreign Policy to pay more attention to these repeated accidents since, despite the fact that some of them can be perceived as local or isolated, they could escalate and represent a high security risk;

6 Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council of the European Union, the Government and Parliament of Serbia and the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, the special Coordinator for the Stability Pact for South-East Europe and the OSCE.