

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

22 OCTOBER 1979

DOCUMENT 1-419/79

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Scott-Hopkins

on behalf the European Democratic Group

with request for urgent debate

pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the /violation of the freedom of
the press and private property in Malta

PE 60.675

The European Parliament,

- aware of the relationship between the Maltese Parliament and itself and the agreement between Malta and the Community,
 - noting Malta's outstanding and courageous contributions to the preservation of freedom and democracy,
 - shocked by the firing of the printing offices of the The Times of Malta newspaper on 15 October 1979,
 - alarmed by reports of widespread destruction of private property on the occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of Mr Dom Mintoff's leadership of the Maltese Labour Party,
 - recalling the attack on the home of the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Fenech Adami, and the brutal physical assault on his wife,
1. Emphasizes the importance of a free press operating effectively as a key function in support of democracy;
 2. Believes that respect for private property is essential for free and orderly social and economic development;
 3. Asks the Government of Malta to assure Maltese and world opinion of its commitment to human rights as parties to the European Convention on Human Rights through investigation and report of the incidents;
 4. Calls on the Government of Malta to compensate firms and individuals for reported material losses and damage;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the Council, the President of the Commission, the Governments of the Member States, the President of the Maltese Parliament and the President of the European Court on Human Rights.

Justification

The reason for the request for urgent procedure lies in the destruction of the printing offices of The Times of Malta newspaper on 15 October 1979, reportedly through mob violence, subsequent reported violation of private property, and the ensuing difficulty of ensuring freedom of the press in Malta.