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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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Dea Charles.

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EC Broadcasting Directive

The Foreign Secretary argued at the Foreign Affairs Council today for deletion of the quota provisions in the Directive. He received no support at all. He was, however, able to secure an explicit statement on the record that the provisions of Articles 4 and 5 are only political commitments, ie they are not compulsory.

The German and Dutch governments both made clear at the Council that, in the light of this clarification on the quota provisions, they would support the Directive. Our position was, therefore, not decisive - and a UK negative vote would not have blocked the Directive. For the reasons given in the Prime Minister's letter to President Bush, the Foreign Secretary therefore supported the Directive.

/ I enclose a draft message to President Bush.

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