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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Pasqualina Napoletano, Jan Marinus Wiersma, Hannes Swoboda

on behalf of the PSE Group

on demonstrations in Russia after the Presidential elections

European Parliament resolution on demonstrations in Russia after the Presidential elections

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part (PCA)¹, which entered into force in 1997 and expires in 2007,
 - having regard to the objective of the EU and Russia, set out in the joint statement issued following the St Petersburg Summit held on 31 May 2003, to set up a common economic space, a common space of freedom, security and justice, a common space of cooperation in the field of external security and a common space of research and education, including cultural aspects,
 - having regard to the outcome of the 20th EU/Russia Summit, which took place on 26 October 2006 in Mafra, Portugal,
 - having regard to the EU-Russia human rights consultations,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on EU relations with Russia, and in particular its resolution of 12 November 2007 on the EU/Russia Summit in Mafra, its resolution of 10 May 2007 on the EU/Russia Summit in Samara and its resolution of 19 June 2007 on EU economic and trade relations with Russia,
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas enhanced cooperation and good-neighbourly relations between the EU and Russia are of key importance to the stability, security and prosperity of the whole of Europe,
- B. whereas the Russian Federation is a full member of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and has therefore committed itself to the principles of democracy and democratic elections laid down by these organisations,
- C. whereas part of the election process and the forceful blocking of demonstrations in Moscow and St. Petersburg on the day after the presidential elections gives cause for concern about the developments in the Russian Federation with regard to the respect for and the protection of human rights and to the respect for commonly agreed democratic principles, rules and procedures,
- D. whereas the conclusion of a Strategic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation remains of the utmost importance for a further development and intensification of the cooperation between the two partners, in particular with regard to matters of political, security, economic and energy cooperation but also with regard to the respect for democratic principles and procedures and for basic human rights,

¹ OJ L 327, 28.11.1997, p. 1.

1. Expresses its concern that - with the proceedings of the elections and with the forceful blocking of the demonstrations the day after the elections - Russia is not showing sufficient respect for the basic human rights of its citizens and is not fulfilling its democratic potential;
2. Agrees, however, with the observer delegation of the Council of Europe, that the newly elected President, Dmitry Medvedev has received a solid mandate from the majority of the Russian electorate and expresses the hope that Mr. Medvedev will give priority to the deepening of the relations with the European Union;
3. Reconfirms its conviction that Russia remains an important partner for the purpose of building a strategic cooperation based on common values, with which the EU shares not only economic and trade interests but also the objective of cooperating closely in the international arena;
4. Calls on the Russian Government to create, together with the European Union, the necessary conditions for a rapid start of the negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia; stresses once more, in this respect, that democracy and human rights must be an important part of any future agreement with the Russian Federation;
5. Calls for a stepping-up of the EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations and to open this process to an effective input from the European Parliament, the State Duma and civil society and human rights organisations; calls on Russia to fully respect its obligations as a member of the OSCE and of the Council of Europe including the right of associations and the right to peaceful demonstrations;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and of the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.