

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

14 November 2002

B5-0585/2002

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Charles Pasqua

on behalf of the UEN Group

on the tenth EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002 in Brussels

B5-0585/2002

European Parliament resolution on the tenth EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002 in Brussels

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 7 October 1999, 18 November 1999, 20 January 2000, 17 February 2000, 16 March 2000, 13 April 2000 and 15 April 2001,
- having regard to the European Union's common strategy on Russia of 4 June 1999 adopted by the European Council in Cologne,
- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) concluded between the European Union and the Russian Federation, which entered into force on 1 December 1997,
- having regard to the Commission communication on a northern dimension for the policies of the Union (COM (1998) 589 - C 4-0067/1999) and the Action plan for the northern dimension with external and cross-border policies of the European Union adopted in Feira,
- having regard to the proposals submitted by the Commission to the European Council in Biarritz on 13 and 14 October 2000, seeking to guarantee the European Union's long-term energy independence,
- having regard to the joint declarations of the EU-Russia summits in Helsinki on 22 October 1999 and in Moscow on 29 May 2000,
- having regard to Russia's medium-term strategy for the development of relations between the Russian Federation the European Union (2000-2010) presented at the EU-Russia summit in Helsinki,
- having regard to the Founding Act on relations between NATO and the Russian Federation, adopted on 27 May 1997 in Paris,
- having regard to its recommendation of 5 May 1999 to the Council on the common strategy on the Russian Federation,
- having regard to the conclusions of the fifth meeting of the EU-Russia Cooperation Council,
- having regard to the conclusions of the tenth EU-Russia summit,
- having regard to the conflict that has been going on for several years between the Russian Federation and the Chechen separatist terrorists,

- having regard to the taking of hostages, including nationals of Member States of the European Union, on Wednesday, 23 October 2002 in Moscow, perpetrated by an Islamist Chechen commando,
 - whereas Chechen separatist groups have maintained, and still maintain, links with the al-Qa'ida movement, in particular through the Islamist Abd Ar-Rahman Khattab, who has been in Chechnya since the mid-1990s,
 - having regard to the terrorist threats still faced by the Russian Federation as a result of the intransigence of Chechen terrorists and their leaders, the most prominent of which is Shamil Bassaev,
 - having regard to the international political situation since the tragic events of 11 September 2001 and the urgent need to fight terrorism in all its forms,
- A. whereas since the fall of the Communist regime, the deepening cooperation between the European Union and Russia is making a decisive contribution to security and stability in Europe; whereas, consequently, the utmost importance should be attached to the Union's strategy to strengthen relations with Russia and to the action plan,,
 - B. whereas cooperation between the EU and Russia covers numerous areas, ranging from aid for further consolidation of democracy and the market economy to maintaining international security and peace,
 - C. whereas this cooperation is based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which establishes a general framework for all areas of institutional, political and administrative cooperation,
 - D. whereas the common strategy on Russia comprises a series of common instruments for a European security concept, forms of dialogue, joint conflict prevention measures and disarmament talks, including special mechanisms to establish joint initiatives in specific third countries and regions,
 - E. whereas Russia, the European Union and its Member States must try to achieve a degree of convergence in their respective foreign, security and defence policies, in particular in the Balkans, the republics of the Southern Caucasus, Central Asia and the Middle East,
 - F. whereas, although the Member States and the Tacis committee are linked through the common strategy, the Member States retain a degree of autonomy in defining their policies vis-à-vis Russia,
 - G. whereas the exploitation of oil and gas resources in the north-west of Russia and the Barents Sea and the development of transport infrastructure to carry oil and gas to the European market could, as part of the northern dimension policy, make a significant contribution to the European Union's energy supply security,
 - H. whereas the European Council in Biarritz proposed to strengthen energy cooperation between Russia and the European Union in order to guarantee the Union's energy

independence while providing Russia with a key role in the Union's future energy supply strategy,

- I. whereas the support provided for the establishment of the rule of law, democracy and the principles of good governance within the framework of federalism, must in no circumstances serve as a pretext for attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the Russian Federation,
- J. whereas each State has a sovereign right to protect the security of its citizens by controlling its borders and the movement of persons and goods in its territory, but within the Russian Federation, the Kaliningrad region is a unique case, being located between Lithuania and Poland,
- K. whereas the authorities of the Russian Federation are facing terrorist actions instigated, organised and planned by fundamentalist armed separatist groups from the province of Chechnya, or from terrorist centres located outside the territory of the Russian Federation linked to the al-Qa'ida movement,
- L. having regard, in particular, to the taking of more than 700 civilians hostage in the Dubrovka Theatre on 23 October 2002 by a heavily armed Islamist Chechen commando,
- M. having regard to the terrorists' determination not to enter into talks with the Russian authorities and whereas hostages held by the Chechen terrorists were cold-bloodedly killed in the initial hours of the hostage taking,
- N. having regard to the declared intention of the Chechen terrorists to kill all the hostages,
- O. whereas these fundamentalist terrorist networks are a threat not only to the Russian Federation but to all democratic nations,

Fight against international terrorism

- 1. Presents its most sincere condolences to the Russian people and the families of the civilian victims who died during the hostage taking on 23 October in Moscow;
- 2. Congratulates the Russian security forces who, by launching an attack on the theatre where the hostages were held, on 26 October 2002, managed to save as many human lives as possible;
- 3. Applauds the courage, determination and resolution shown by President Vladimir Putin during this barbaric hostage taking;
- 4. Supports the action taken by Vladimir Putin, the democratically elected President of the Russian Federation, whose policy seeks to strengthen national cohesion and the territorial integrity of the Federation, preconditions for continuing the process of modernising the country;
- 5. Considers that the military operations conducted by the Russian army in the province of Chechnya are a matter of maintaining order and fighting terrorism and, consequently, that

the conduct of such operations remains strictly within the competence of the Russian Federation;

6. Regrets the fact that these operations may increase the difficulties facing the civilian population, but also points out that the action of the Russian armed forces is meeting indiscriminate violence from the Chechen separatists;
7. Considers that the maintenance of law and order in Chechnya and the total eradication of terrorism in this province are part of the fight against international terrorism;
8. Condemns the partisan and irresponsible attitude of certain non-governmental organisations, and even some international organisations, whose humanitarianism is serving, knowingly or otherwise, the interests of the Chechen separatists and, consequently, of international terrorism;
9. Considers that the actions of non-governmental organisations in Chechnya all too often constitute interference in the internal affairs of the Russian Federation;
10. Urges the European Union and its Member States to respect the sovereignty of the Russian Federation and to restrict their often rash statements concerning the conflict between the Russian Federation and the Chechen terrorist factions;
11. Considers that no political solution can be found to the Chechen problem until the fundamentalist separatists have definitively renounced terrorism;
12. Points out that the very ambiguous attitude adopted by Aslan Maskhadov during the hostage taking is highly suspect and that the fact that Aslan Maskhadov did not condemn this criminal act officially until very late in the day, deprives him of any legitimate right to take part in any political settlement;
13. Welcomes the determination shown by President Vladimir Putin resolutely to combat international terrorism and notes that this proactive policy is very widely supported by Russian public opinion;
14. Welcomes the efforts to strengthen cooperation between the European Union and Russia in the fight against international terrorism through the conclusion of an action plan under which the two sides undertake to bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorist attacks and those responsible for harbouring or supporting such persons; to strengthen their cooperation to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism through the establishment of international anti-terrorist conventions and Security Council resolutions; to finalise the agreement between Europol and Russia on the exchange of technical and strategic information so that the agreement can be signed as soon as possible and to strengthen efforts to end the financing of terrorism, in particular by freezing terrorists' funds;

Fight against organised crime

15. Supports the efforts made by Russia - and urges the European Union to participate actively in such efforts - to launch an effective attack on organised crime, corruption and

money-laundering, which are jeopardising the economic development of Russia and its relations with the European Union;

Kaliningrad

16. Welcomes the agreement reached between the EU and Russia on the future transit of persons and goods between the Kaliningrad Region and other parts of Russia, and to intensify their cooperation to promote the social and economic development of the region as a whole;

International trade

17. Encourages President Putin to continue his action to restore the authority of the State and to reform the Federation, in particular by reducing the level of bureaucracy in order to free up private initiative;
18. Hopes that the efforts to create a common European economic area will speedily produce tangible results;
19. Takes a very positive view of President Putin's determination to make the Russian Federation a member of the World Trade Organisation;

Energy dialogue

20. Welcomes the opening of the EU-Russia energy technology centre in Moscow;
21. Approves the conclusions of the Joint group of independent experts mandated at the last summit, in which the experts note that the strategic transport projects identified 'remain of mutual strategic interest and worthy of the support of the EU and Russian authorities' and recommend, for their financing, the setting up of a fund protecting investors and allowing for participation by the international financial institutions, the public authorities involved and private investors;
22. Supports the efforts made to improve the legal framework governing the production and transport of energy, in particular the Tax Code applicable to Production sharing agreements (PSA), but points out that it is necessary to use other legal structures, such as joint ventures and, within this framework, to ensure adequate access to energy transport networks;
23. Urges the EU and Russia to broaden their dialogue in the area of fossil fuels and to step up the exchange of information on the oil market;
24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member State, the Duma and the Government of the Russian Federation.