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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Helmuth Markov and Esko Olavi Seppänen

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002

European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the results of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia and Chechnya,
 - having regard to its report on the implementation of the Common Strategy of the European Union on Russia¹ and its report on the communication from the Commission to the Council on the EU and Kaliningrad²,
 - having regard to the common strategy of the EU on Russia and to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia which entered into force on 1 December 1997,
- A. whereas comprehensive relations and cooperation between the European Union and Russia represent a decisive factor for security, stability and prosperity in Europe; whereas in this light relations between the EU and Russia remain unsatisfactory and should be given a new impetus,
- B. whereas Russia is a European neighbour of the EU, and whereas as a result of the EU enlargement new challenges for relations between the EU and Russia arise which demand more efforts, in particular in the fields of political dialogue and security cooperation, trade and movement of people,
- C. whereas enhanced cooperation between Russia and the EU could contribute to the solution of many international crises and strengthen the profile and effectiveness of the international organisations, in particular the UN and the OSCE,
- D. whereas, while the EU is an important trading partner of Russia, the state of economic relations remains unsatisfactory; whereas the High Level Group charged with the elaboration of a concept for a closer economic relationship between Russia and the EU and the core elements for a Common European Economic Area is continuing its work,
- E. whereas the need to establish an energy partnership between the EU and Russia is of high importance for the EU and should be further developed and strengthened; whereas the EU-Russia Energy Technology Centre for promoting technology transfer was recently opened in Moscow,
- F. whereas the situation in Chechnya remains of deep concern for the European Union,

¹ A5-0363/2000 (2000/2007(INI))

² A5-0156/2002 (2001/2046(COS))

1. Welcomes the agreement on transit between the Kaliningrad region and the other parts of the Russian Federation; insists that for the citizens the practical implementation of these measures should be as uncomplicated as possible;
2. Stresses the urgency of improving the cross-border transport links of the Kaliningrad region; requests the Commission not only to consider the Russian proposal on the high speed non-stop train, but also to discuss with Russia projects to improve the cross-border transport infrastructure of Kaliningrad;
3. Notes with concern the increasing economic and social asymmetry between Kaliningrad and its neighbours; welcomes the decision of the summit to implement a comprehensive package of measures in order to promote the development of the Kaliningrad region; encourages the EU and Russia to give a more concrete form to their plans for the economic and social development of Kaliningrad, including the financial aspects; calls on the Commission to play a more active role in support of the development of Kaliningrad; requests the Commission to present an action plan on Kaliningrad before July 2003;
4. Welcomes the agreement on enhanced cooperation in all relevant international and regional fora; urges the EU and Russia, in addition to the agreed fields of cooperation, to seek to ensure the revival of institutionalised or negotiated arms control at multilateral level within the UN system and at bilateral level, to prevent a new arms race, to support regional and global action to prevent the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and to contribute to a general strengthening of measures for the civil prevention of conflicts;
5. Expects faster progress in the development of economic cooperation and discussions about a Common European Economic Area; wishes to be better informed about the results of the work of the High Level Group; hopes that these discussions will result as soon as possible in new agreements on economic cooperation and trade promoting the establishment of a Common European Economic Area;
6. Calls on the EU and the Russian Federation to strengthen their cooperation in the field of nuclear safety, in particular with regard to the treatment of nuclear waste within the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership;
7. Strongly condemns the hostage-taking in the theatre on Melnikov Street in Moscow in October 2002; reaffirms its view that taking innocent civilians hostage cannot be defended or justified for any cause;
8. Is shocked by the high number of innocent victims; expresses its deep condolences to their families; supports the request to establish an independent and impartial investigation into the events in the theatre, including the circumstances of all deaths, and to make the findings public;

9. Expresses its concern that the refusal of the Russian authorities to make available, even to doctors on the scene, the details of the gas employed may have increased the loss of life;
10. Reaffirms its position that there is no military way to solve the problems in Chechnya, that without a political solution there cannot be lasting stability in the region, and that respect for human rights is central to a durable solution to the conflict in Chechnya;
11. Regrets the deadlock in the dialogue about Chechnya between Russia and the EU; urges the Council and Commission to keep the issue of Chechnya as a separate point on the agenda of the political dialogue, with a view to ending the war immediately and to assisting the search for a political solution of the conflict and the reconstruction of the region; requests its Interparliamentary Delegation for relations with Russia to give a new impetus to the discussions on Chechnya with the deputies from the Duma;
12. Takes note of the joint statement on the fight against terrorism; reiterates its view that social and economic development and the strengthening of the rule of law are the ways to fight terrorism effectively, and that the just solution of long-lasting conflicts in a way which guarantees the rights of peoples deprived of fundamental freedoms will create political conditions favouring the elimination of the main breeding-grounds of international terrorism; deplores the fact that these aspects of the fight against terrorism have not been accorded the place which they should have in the cooperation between the EU and Russia;
13. Recommends starting an updating of the basic documents guiding the relations between the EU and Russia, with a view to adapting them to the new challenges arising from the international situation, the enlargement of the EU and the requirements of developments on the European continent; believes that to evolve and adapt adequately to the new global and European context, relations between Russia and the EU should now lead to a reinforcement of the political dialogue at their core, able to permanently assess, define, and oversee concerted action on shared global and European priorities;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Russian State Duma and Federal Council, and the Government of the Russian Federation.