

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

8 May 2003

B5-0235/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Francis Wurtz

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the EU-Russia summit on 31 May

European Parliament resolution on the EU-Russia summit on 31 May

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the preparatory work for the forthcoming EU-Russia summit, which will be held in St Petersburg on 31 May,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on relations between the EU and Russia and the EU-Russia summits,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Chechnya,
 - having regard to the joint declaration of 17 April by the European Conference in Athens,
 - having regard to the Commission's communication of 11 March 2003 on the EU's relations with neighbouring countries,
- A. whereas the international community is faced with new challenges in preserving peace and security, and economic, social, environmental and political problems cannot be resolved by military means,
- B. whereas closer cooperation with Russia is of strategic importance in guaranteeing stability and safety in Europe and throughout the world,
- C. whereas, following the accession of new countries to the EU, the EU's borders with Russia will be extended, which will reinforce links between the two parties and the need for good relations, especially with the Nordic and Baltic countries,
- D. whereas closer dialogue between the EU and Russia in areas of security and external policy could assist international crisis settlement and lead to joint initiatives,
- E. deploring the situation in Chechnya and the continuing systematic violation of fundamental rights,
1. Supports reinforcement of the strategic partnership with Russia, particularly in the light of the consequences of enlargement of the EU;
 2. Condemns Russia's military operations in Chechnya, which have been accompanied by continual and systematic violations of fundamental rights (executions, kidnappings, torture and racketeering), as was even recognised in the report by Akhmad Kadyrov, head of the official administration in Chechnya; reaffirms the need to find a political solution to the Chechen conflict;

3. Welcomes the fact that Russia, along with numerous Member States, opposed the United States' aggression against Iraq in breach of international law;
4. Supports the development of joint initiatives between the EU and Russia to help the return to international legality in Iraq, with United Nations involvement;
5. Welcomes the fact that the EU and Russia are parties to the December 2002 roadmap; asks that it should be implemented rapidly and without modification, to achieve a just and lasting solution that recognises the Palestinian people's right to a viable state;
6. Asks the next EU-Russia summit to enter into discussions on setting up a security system for all European states, based on reinforcement of measures for civil prevention of conflicts and measures for arms control and limitation;
7. Asks the EU-Russia summit to take more account of the 2004-2006 action plan for the northern dimension of European Union; asks Russia to play an active part in carrying out this action plan, especially with regard to the environment;
8. Asks that development of infrastructure in the framework of the northern dimension should be environmentally friendly; therefore considers that priority should be given to sea and rail transport; calls for the setting up of a rail infrastructure between the Nordic countries and the Komi region of Russia;
9. Expresses concern about maritime safety in the Baltic: the new ports built by Russia and rapidly expanding traffic present new threats to the fragile Baltic marine environment; calls on the Commission to consider banning oil tankers other than those that meet the strictest international safety standards and that are carrying out transport operations in the Baltic;
10. Welcomes the joint declaration by the European conference in Athens on 17 April, attended by heads of state and government and/or foreign ministers from 40 European countries, on promoting closer cooperation between the future enlarged EU and its future neighbours;
11. Notes the solutions to the Kaliningrad question; hopes that specific measures will be put in place to help the region's development;
12. Hopes for development of economic and trade relations between the EU and Russia but hopes that this will go hand in hand with an assessment of their social and environmental impact;
13. Encourages development of the dialogue on energy and hopes that it will become part of a common sustainable development strategy;
14. Considers, from this point of view, that Russia must step up its efforts to achieve better environmental protection;
15. Calls on the EU and Russia to increase their cooperation in the field of nuclear safety especially as regards treatment of nuclear waste in the northern dimension framework;

16. Mindful that all the EU's additional energy needs could be met in future by imports of natural gas from Russia and that more financial resources should therefore be committed to use of gas; welcomes the initiative of building a gas pipeline between the Barents Sea and central Europe, but points out that the EU and its Member States should also contribute to financing it in exchange for the conclusion of long-term delivery agreements;
17. Calls on the EU-Russia summit to take new initiatives to step up the efforts to combat money laundering, terrorism and people trafficking; considers that the fight against terrorism should be conducted with respect for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms;
18. Deplores the attacks on freedom of expression and information in Russia; supports strengthening of the TACIS democracy programmes;
19. Asks the Council and Commission to get the new EU Member States actively involved in preparation for the EU-Russia summit;
20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the government and parliament of the Russian Federation.