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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 Bart Staes, Elisabeth Schroedter, Joost Lagendijk and Claude Turmes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the EU-Russia summit on 31 May 2003 in St Petersburg

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European Parliament resolution on the EU-Russia summit on 31 May 2003 in St Petersburg

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia which entered into force on 1 December 1997,
 - having regard to the Common Strategy of the EU on Russia dating from June 1999 and valid for a period of four years,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 10 April 2002 and 16 January 2003 on Chechnya,
 - having regard to its resolution of 21 November 2002 on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002,
 - having regard to the Commission Communication, ‘Wider Europe – Neighbourhood’ of 11 March 2003,
 - having regard to the 6th meeting of the Cooperation Council between the EU and Russia on 15 April 2003,
- A. whereas enhanced and comprehensive cooperation with Russia is of strategic importance for the achievement of stability and security for the whole of Europe and in the rest of the world,
- B. whereas the forthcoming enlargement, which will extend the EU's border with Russia, must not lead to the emergence of a new dividing line on the European continent,
- C. whereas the solution of the issue of Kaliningrad and the successful implementation by all the parties of the relevant agreement is bound to improve the political climate between the EU and Russia,
- D. whereas the political dialogue between the EU and Russia has constructively intensified over the years, fully benefiting from the opportunities provided by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA),
- E. whereas in the field of economic cooperation further steps have still to be taken so as to put the PCA fully into practice,
- F. whereas further developments are needed in order to support the democratic process in Russia with regard, in particular, to freedom of information and control of the media,

- G. whereas a genuine partnership must be based on the sharing of common values and whereas the present appalling human rights situation in Chechnya is an obstacle to its full development,
- H. highlighting the multilateral approach adhered to by Russia in relation to the Iraq crisis,
- I. whereas a strengthened partnership could contribute effectively to the solution of the ongoing conflicts in Transdnistria and the Caucasus,
 - 1. Believes that the deepening of the relations between an enlarged EU and Russia in the framework provided by the PCA can only be achieved by enhancing the shared values upon which to build a genuine partnership;
 - 2. Calls upon the Council and the Commission to make all possible efforts to improve the efficiency of the EU-Russia common political structures, in particular the cooperation council, which is the ministerial body responsible for the mutual relationship between the parties;
 - 3. Regrets that there has not been any improvement in the situation in Chechnya in spite of the process of normalisation started by the Russian authorities with the referendum of 23 March; points out that the persistence of recurrent mass violations of humanitarian law and human rights committed against the civilian population by Russian forces together with the dreadful attacks by the separatists such as the suicide attack which took place on 12 May constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity that must be investigated and the perpetrators prosecuted so as to secure a real political solution to the conflict supported by all parties; believes that the question of Chechnya is a key element in relations between Russia and the EU and looks forward to receiving the report of the European Parliament's ad hoc delegation after the visit to Grozny scheduled for 14-17 May;
 - 4. Welcomes the constructive and responsible role played by the Russian Government during the Iraq crisis and urges the Council to propose to the Moscow authorities the launching of a strong joint initiative to support the multilateral framework of international relations and the relevant international organisations with regard, in particular, to the United Nations;
 - 5. Welcomes the progress made by the High Level Group mandated to elaborate the concept of the Common European Economic Space (CEES) and stresses the need to finalise the CEES concept including its implications and its social and environmental impact by the summit of November 2003;
 - 6. Calls upon both sides to establish comprehensive cooperation in the field of ESDP involving Russia as a vital partner in the definition of a concept of collective pan-European security;

7. Welcomes the agreement reached between the EU and Russia to enhance their cooperation on maritime safety in the framework of the International Maritime Organisation with the objective of preventing maritime accidents and consequent pollution notably with regard to the accelerated phasing-out of single hull vessels as well as the banning of the transportation of heavy grades of oil in single hull vessels;
8. Welcomes the adoption by the Council of the necessary legislation regarding the Facilitated Transit Document (FTD) and the Facilitated Rail Transit Document (FRTD) for Kaliningrad, and recalls that the whole scheme must be in place by 1 July 2003; stresses the importance of rapid ratification of the Russia/Lithuania border agreement;
9. Stresses the importance of continuing efforts to implement the Action Plan for the fight against organised crime and insists that a much higher level of cooperation should be attained in this field as well as in the fight against terrorism, money laundering, trafficking in human beings and arms and drug smuggling;
10. Calls on the Duma to ratify the Kyoto Agreement swiftly and adopt all the measures necessary for its implementation;
11. Expresses its deep concern at the management of nuclear waste in the Barents Sea; welcomes, in this respect, the decision of the Russian Government to overcome the remaining obstacles and sign the Multilateral Environmental Programme for the Russian Federation (MNEPR) on 21 May 2003 and looks forward to stepping up cooperation in the field of the environment;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the President and Government of Russia and the Duma.