

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

17 November 2003

B5-0479/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Ilkka Suominen, Arie Oostlander and Bernd Posselt

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the 12th EU-Russia Summit on 6 November 2003 in Rome

European Parliament resolution on the 12th EU-Russia Summit on 6 November 2003 in Rome

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia¹, which entered into force on 1 December 1997,
 - having regard to the Common Strategy of the EU on Russia dating from June 1999, the period of application of which has been extended to 24 June 2004;
 - having regard to its resolutions of 10 April 2002¹ and 16 January 2003²² and 29 May 2003³ on Chechnya,
 - having regard to its resolution of 15 May 2003⁴ on preparation of the EU-Russia Summit of 31 May 2003;
 - having regard to the Commission Communication to the Council and Parliament of 11 March 2003 entitled 'Wider Europe – Neighbourhood: a new framework for relations with our eastern and southern neighbours' (COM(2003) 104),
- A. whereas the strategic partnership between the EU and the Russian Federation as well as the establishment of four 'common spaces' that will build on the EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), taking into account the Wider Europe initiative, represent decisive contributions to security and stability for the whole of Europe,
- B. whereas enlargement will extend the border of the EU with Russia, thereby strengthening the ties between the two sides and underlining the need for good-neighbourly relations,
- C. whereas the foundations of the EU's Russian policy, notably the PCA, the Common Strategy and the TACIS programme, were laid a number of years ago and must be updated,
- D. whereas further development of the democratic process in Russia, especially in the field of freedom of information, the media and the rule of law, and Russia's integration in more comprehensive political, economic, scientific and security structures constitute interrelated processes,
- E. whereas the crisis in Chechnya is ongoing and human rights abuses linked to Russian

¹ P5_TA(2002)0174

² P5_TA(2003)0025

³ P5_TA(2003)0335

⁴ P5_TA(2003)0219

security forces and troops reportedly under the control of the newly elected Chechen president are continuing and increasingly spreading to the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia; whereas, at the same time, attacks, reportedly by Chechen fighters, on Russian troops, members of the Chechen administration and people linked to President Akhmed Kadyrov have also continued,

1. Welcomes the agreement reached at the Summit to reinforce the strategic partnership between the EU and Russia on the basis of common values and with the aim of consolidating stability, security and prosperity in a Europe without dividing lines;
2. Welcomes the commitment to promote further rapprochement and comprehensive integration of social and economic structures of the enlarged EU and Russia, to create 'common spaces' between both sides and to launch the work of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council;
3. Welcomes in particular the endorsement of the concept for a Common European Economic Space, which offers a blueprint for economic integration, and calls upon both sides to continue this work with a view to presenting proposals on how to promote trade and investment and to achieving tangible results as early as possible;
4. Recognises the desirability of strengthening the long-term energy relations between the EU and Russia in order to ensure mutual energy security, and welcomes the progress achieved in the ongoing energy dialogue aimed at establishing an energy partnership between Russia and the EU as an integral part of the Common European Economic Space; recognises Russia's role as an outstanding partner in this sector, a close, reliable and major source of energy resources and a growing supplier of energy products to the European Union;
5. Welcomes the agreement to take forward work to create a common space of freedom, security and justice emphasising common democratic values, in particular respect for human rights and the rule of law; recalls in this context the need for fair, non-discriminatory and proportional application of the law by the Russian authorities and especially by the judiciary; considers that defendants must be granted due process so that they have a chance of defending themselves; considers also that failure to respect these key principles could not only undermine the progress made by Russia in the last few years to create a positive environment for the development of trade and investment by Russian and foreign companies but could also hold back Russia's integration into the Common European Economic Space;
6. Welcomes the renewal of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation as well as Russian participation in the Bologna process, which provides for mutual recognition of diplomas; calls on both sides to adopt special programmes aimed at promoting their cooperation in the fields of high-tech and scientific research, including the aircraft-building industry, space exploration, nuclear energy, telecommunications and the pan-European transport system;
7. Welcomes the setting up of a common space of external security as well as the high degree of mutual understanding in regard to a number of acute international issues and the central role of the UN in world affairs; joins both sides in condemning all acts of terror

and in stressing the importance of international cooperation to combat terrorism in all its forms;

8. Expresses in this context its deep concern about continuing reports of grave human rights abuses in Chechnya and urges the Russian authorities to allow unfettered international human rights monitoring in the republic, to immediately halt attempts by the Russian authorities to forcibly return Chechen internally displaced persons until they can return voluntarily in safety and dignity to their place of origin or choice, and to ensure immediate action to bring to justice those responsible for grave abuses committed during the conflict in Chechnya, and provide concrete information about all criminal investigations into alleged crimes which may amount to human rights violations or violations of international humanitarian law;
9. Urges the Council and Commission to keep the issue of Chechnya as a separate item high on the agenda and to reiterate once again to the Russian authorities the call for the resumption of negotiations with all the parties, in order to achieve an immediate political solution to the conflict, which cannot be considered solely as part of the fight against terrorism, making clear the EU's willingness to act as a mediator;
10. Notes with satisfaction the commitment to implement as soon as possible and in full the package on Kaliningrad, including the launch of a high-speed train feasibility study before the end of 2003 and its timely completion; welcomes the entry into force of the Russian-Lithuanian border agreement and calls on Russia to sign and ratify Russia's border agreements with Estonia and Latvia;
11. Remains convinced that it is possible and desirable to work towards Russia's speedy accession to the WTO and calls upon both sides to intensify their work and to resolve the outstanding issues for conclusion of bilateral market access negotiations on Russia's WTO accession, while ensuring mutually acceptable and commercially viable terms;
12. Calls on the Russian State Duma to ratify the Kyoto agreement swiftly and to adopt all the necessary measures for its implementation;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments of the Member States and accession countries and the President, State Duma and Government of the Russian Federation.