

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

17 November 2003

B5-0480/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Ilkka Suominen and Arie M. Oostlander

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, 2004-2006

European Parliament resolution on the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, 2004-2006

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Council's Action Plan for the Northern Dimension with external and cross-border policies of the European Union 2000-2003,
 - having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 16 January 2003 on the Northern Dimension - New Action Plan 2004-2006 (B5-0641/2002),
 - having regard to the Commission's Communication of 11 March 2003 on Wider Europe - Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours, COM(2003) 104 final,
 - having regard to the Commission's Second Northern Dimension Plan, 2004-2006 of 10 June 2003, COM(2003) 343 final,
 - having regard to the Presidency Conclusions of 16/17 October 2003 on the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004-2006,
 - having regard to the joint statement adopted at the EU-Russia Summit in Rome on 6 November 2003,
 - having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, since its creation in 1999, the Northern Dimension has proved efficient and of great political, economic and social value and whereas the Northern Dimension region is one of the most challenging regions of Europe,
- B. whereas the principal objective of the future Northern Dimension policy will be to address the opportunities and challenges posed by the historic event of enlargement which will extend the EU border with Russia and make Belarus and Ukraine new neighbouring countries of the EU, and whereas several of the Northern Dimension partner countries will become members of the EU,
- C. whereas these new border regions have great human and economic potential and whereas, in this perspective, it will be important to increase efforts in the region to stimulate trade and investment, to develop infrastructure, to exploit energy resources, to ease the flow of people and goods across borders while working closely together to combat organised crime, to protect the environment, and to promote productive employment as well as social and cultural exchange,
- D. whereas increased interaction at all levels between Russia and the EU in the context of the Northern Dimension is essential to achieve these overall objectives and will act as a catalyst for closer ties between the EU and Russia,

1. Welcomes the Commission's Second Northern Action Plan 2004-2006 as an important contribution towards developing the full potential of the region and carrying forward the Union's new neighbourhood policy;
2. Underlines that the successful conclusion of the accession negotiations and the signature of the Accession Treaty with 10 acceding countries, including those involved in the Northern Dimension, takes the Northern Dimension into a new phase, and faces its partners with the huge challenge to address the opportunities posed by this historic event and to help ensure that it benefits the entire region;
3. Recalls that the added value of the Northern Dimension lies in the synergy and coherence that it creates across the activities implemented by all partners and stresses that the effectiveness of this interaction will be crucial to the achievement of the common objectives;
4. Emphasises the key purpose of the present Action Plan to provide a clear operational framework for all Northern Dimension stakeholders, setting out strategic objectives and priorities;
5. Supports the present Action Plan's specific activities, which take into account all the main points made by the EP in its previous resolution and cover five broad priority sectors:
 - the economy, business and infrastructure,
 - human resources, education, scientific research and health,
 - the environment, nuclear safety and natural resources,
 - cross-border cooperation and regional development,
 - justice and home affairs,as well as paying special attention to regions with specific needs such as Kaliningrad and the Arctic region;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the accession countries, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.