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B5-0485/2003

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Council and Commission statements

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

by Bart Staes, Monica Frassoni, Daniel Marc Cohn-Bendit and Elisabeth Schroedter

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit held in Rome on 6 November 2003

**B5-0485/2003**

**European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit held in Rome on 6 November 2003**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia and Chechnya, particularly that of 3 July 2003,
  - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation,
  - having regard to the communication of 11 March 2003 from the Commission on 'Wider Europe - Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours' (COM(2003) 104 final),
  - having regard to the outcome of the EU-Russia summit of 16 November 2003,
  - having regard to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas at the Rome summit the EU and Russia agreed to reinforce the strategic partnership on the basis of common values with the aim of consolidating stability, security and prosperity on the European continent,
- B. whereas the situation in Chechnya is far from showing any sign of improvement, with ongoing cleansing operations by Russian special forces, disappearances and arbitrary arrests,
- C. whereas the October referendum was marred by fraud and falsifications and whereas no international organisation was willing to monitor such a farce,
- D. deeply disappointed by the lack of any reference in the final joint statement to the appalling situation in this Caucasian republic,
- E. whereas the ambitions of the EU to play a primary role on the international scene are not credible if it turns a blind eye to this conflict which is destabilising the whole Caucasus and widening the gap between the Western countries and the Islamic world,
- F. having regard to the arrest of the former head of the oil giant Yukos, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, which has called into question the rule of law in Russia,
1. Condemns the attitude of the Presidency-in-Office at the final press conference, when it openly played down the issue of Chechnya and deliberately disregarded and contradicted the opinions of the European institutions;
  2. Firmly condemns the persistent and recurring mass violations of humanitarian law and human rights committed by Russian forces against the civilian population and the attacks by

the pro-independence guerrillas;

3. Believes that the situation in Chechnya is an insurmountable obstacle to the development of a sincere and genuine partnership between Russia and the EU and that all clauses of the PCA should be implemented;
4. Calls on its Delegation for Relations with Russia to organise with the Duma in Moscow after the general elections a broad debate on the question of Chechnya in which to make a thorough analysis of the conflict with a view to finding ways of bringing it to an end;
5. Is convinced, nevertheless, that the EU and Russia together can actively contribute to the strengthening of multilateral organisations and the solution of the frozen conflicts of Transnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh;
6. Rejects the recent statement by Russian Foreign Minister Ivanov according to whom in case of danger Russia could make use of pre-emptive strikes on the bordering countries;
7. Welcomes the decision of the British court to refuse the extradition of the Chechen leader Akhmed Zakayev requested by the Russian authorities and calls on the Moscow government to start a real peace process with negotiations opened to all the parties concerned under the supervision of the international community;
8. Calls on the Duma to abide by its commitments and ratify as soon as possible the Kyoto Protocol as a key element for the enhancement of multilateralism;
9. Welcomes the successful entry into force of the Russian-Lithuanian border agreements to facilitate the transit of Russian citizens from and to Kaliningrad and expects the implementation of all the package of measures agreed by the two sides so as to avoid the creation of new painful dividing lines;
10. Expresses its concern at the deterioration of media freedom in Russia; points out that media pluralism is one of the basic elements of a democracy and calls on the Commission to strengthen the TACIS-democracy projects;
11. Calls on the Commission to set up an observer mission for the forthcoming general and presidential elections;
12. Calls on the Russian authorities to clarify the position of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, improve and make transparent the business environment and open an independent investigation into the privatisation process which took place in the nineties and the role played by the so-called oligarchs;
13. Expects of Russia concrete and quick action on the EU proposal to accelerate the phasing-out of single hull tankers;
14. Draws attention to the fact that the Russian oil company LUKoil, using a loan of US\$ 150 million from the EBRD, is going to start oil production before the end of 2003 just 22 km away from the Curonian Spit, which is a World Heritage Site and future Natura2000 area;

expresses its concern about the failure to perform a transparent international EIA as required by international conventions as the oil platform is situated only 6 km from the Lithuanian border;

15. Calls therefore on the Council and Commission to use their majority on the EBRD Board of Directors to stop support for LUKoil until an international EIA has been conducted, as called for by the Helsinki Convention;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the President of Russia and the Duma.