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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 Francis Wurtz, Pernille Frahm and Luigi Vinci

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the EU-Russia summit (Rome, 6 November 2003)

European Parliament resolution on the EU-Russia summit (Rome, 6 November 2003)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the joint statement issued at the EU-Russia Summit of 6 November 2003 and related documents,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on relations between the EU and Russia and the EU-Russia summits,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Chechnya,
 - 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 Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas closer cooperation with Russia is of strategic importance in guaranteeing stability and safety in Europe and throughout the world,
- B. whereas, following the accession of new countries to the EU, the EU's borders with Russia will be extended, which will reinforce the need for good relations,
- C. whereas closer dialogue between the EU and Russia in areas of security and international policy could assist international non-military crisis settlement and lead to joint initiatives to preserve peace and stability,
- D. whereas cooperation between the EU and Russia is important for the establishment of a stable political, economic and social environment in Europe; whereas internal stability and adherence to the common values which were reaffirmed during the summit are crucial to this end,
- E. highly alarmed by the situation in Chechnya and the fact that the conflict is still going on,
1. Is highly critical of the fact that, during the Summit, the Council and Commission did not address the situation in Chechnya adequately;
 2. Condemns the statements by the President of the Council, Mr Silvio Berlusconi, on Chechnya during the final press conference of the EU-Russia summit where he justified the Russian policy of military intervention in this region; underlines that these statements do not reflect the official positions of the European Union on the conflict in Chechnya;

3. Considers that the presidential elections in Chechnya made a mockery of democratic consultation while democratic development is a crucial element for the resolution of the conflict; condemns the ongoing violation of fundamental rights, the failure to prosecute the perpetrators of alleged crimes, the terrible living conditions of the civilian population and the problems faced by humanitarian organisations in their efforts to assist the civilian population;
4. Reaffirms its position that there is no military solution to the problems in Chechnya and that without a political solution acceptable to the majority of the Chechen people there can be no lasting peace and stability in the region; urges the Government of Russia to put a stop to military atrocities and to intensify efforts towards political dialogue, demilitarisation, democratisation and reconstruction of Grozny and other parts of Chechnya in order to provide the basic conditions necessary for political and social reconciliation;
5. Wishes to reinforce the strategic partnership with Russia, particularly in the light of the consequences of enlargement of the EU; in this context calls on the two partners to adapt the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Russia and the EU to the new challenges and realities;
6. Welcomes the high degree of mutual understanding with regard to a number of acute international issues and the central role of the UN in international affairs; calls on both sides to develop joint initiatives within the UN to promote peace and international security; expresses the view that the EU and Russia should give civil crisis prevention higher priority in their dialogue on international questions;
7. Welcomes the agreement to step up the dialogue on non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control and coordination of activities within existing international mechanisms; reiterates the importance of nuclear and chemical disarmament for the non-proliferation system and calls on Russia and the EU Member States to play a leading role in these areas; calls on the EU and Russia to promote a dialogue on a security system for Europe which includes all European states and is based on arms control and limitation measures and a comprehensive definition of security;
8. Welcomes the Concept Paper on the Common European Economic Space; calls on both sides to present a first version of the proposed action plan before the end of 2004;
9. Takes note of the Progress Report on the Energy Dialogue; recalls 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 supply agreements; calls on the EU and Russia to take due account of the environmental impact of this project;
10. Regrets that there was no progress in the dialogue on environmental problems; criticises the Council and the Commission for failing adequately to address the differences between the EU and Russia over the Kyoto Protocol; calls on Russia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol;

11. Recalls its concern about maritime safety in the Baltic, noting that the new ports built by Russia and rapidly increased 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 from carrying out transport operations in the Baltic; 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;
12. Takes note of the agreement to take forward work to create a common space of freedom, security and justice; insists that this initiative should strengthen the rule of law and respect for human and civil rights; calls on the EU and Russia to take efficient initiatives to step up the efforts to combat money laundering and trafficking in human beings; insists that the fight against terrorism should be conducted with respect for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms;
13. Underlines the importance of contacts between the civil societies of the EU and Russia for promoting mutual understanding; takes note of the problems of the existing complicated visa regime; requests both sides to facilitate these procedures in the short term; welcomes the agreement to examine conditions for visa-free travel as a long-term goal;
14. 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.