

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

9.11.2005

B6-0586/2005

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Alexander Stubb

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the future of the Northern Dimension

European Parliament resolution on the future of the Northern Dimension

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the expiry of the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan on 1 January 2007,
 - having regard to the Northern Dimension Ministerial Meeting on 21 November 2005,
 - having regard to the role of the Northern Dimension in implementing the EU-Russia road maps for the creation of the four Common Spaces (Common Economic Space, Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice, Common Space of External Security, Common Space on Research, Education and Culture), which were adopted at the 15th EU-Russia Summit in Moscow on 10 May 2005,
 - having regard to its resolution of 20 November 2003 on the Northern Dimension,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the enlargement of the EU has changed the geopolitical map of Northern Europe and moved the EU's geographical focus towards the north-east, as a result of which the Northern Dimension has both new potential and challenges, especially in connection with preventing the emergence of new walls between the EU, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine,
- B. whereas, in this perspective, it will be important to strengthen efforts in the region to stimulate trade, investment and infrastructure, to ease the flow of people and goods across borders while working closely together to combat organised crime, and to promote productive employment as well as social and cultural exchange,
- C. whereas the Baltic Sea is already heavily polluted and its position as an inland sea makes it especially endangered; whereas it is therefore urgent to reduce the eutrophication load from Russian cities and agriculture everywhere in the region, as well as emissions from maritime transport and the risk of oil tanker accidents,
- D. whereas projects in north-eastern Russia have benefited the stability and development of the whole region, while the other geographical areas coming under the Northern Dimension umbrella have been paid too little attention,
- E. whereas the Northern Dimension could serve as a pilot region in implementing the four Common Spaces between EU and Russia,
- F. whereas the work of organisations devoted to promoting regional cooperation in Northern Europe (the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Council) should be rationalised and whereas there could be a historic opportunity for this now that all the countries of the Baltic Sea Region, with the exception of Russia, are Member States of the EU,

1. Urges the Commission and the British Presidency, as well as the coming Austrian and Finnish Presidencies, to guarantee the successful continuation of the ongoing negotiations on the future of the Northern Dimension;
2. Supports fully the aim of strengthening the Northern Dimension and adopting a political declaration and a framework policy document at the end of 2006;
3. Suggests a separate budget line for the Northern Dimension in order to secure basic funding for the programme in the future;
4. Welcomes the activity of the Baltic Intergroup of the European Parliament in creating guidelines for further integration in the Baltic Sea Region and urges the Commission to initiate the creation of a European strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as an internal pillar of the Northern Dimension;
5. Supports new partnerships within the Northern Dimension concept, especially in the field of transport and logistics;
6. Calls for the setting up a Northern Parliamentary Forum to widen the Northern Dimension's political base and to promote and coordinate the integration of different fora for regional cooperation in Northern Europe;
7. Welcomes the Commission's plans to grant the partnership countries an equal role to that of the EU Member States in the Northern Dimension decision-making process, in the belief that this would strengthen the commitment of Russia in particular;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the British Presidency, the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the governments of the Northern Dimension partnership countries (Russia, Norway and Iceland).