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## **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 Satu Hassi, Tatjana Ždanoka and Carl Schlyter

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on the Northern Dimension, with a view to the Ministerial Meeting on  
21 November 2005

**European Parliament resolution on the Northern Dimension, with a view to the Ministerial Meeting on 21 November 2005**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004-2006 as endorsed by the European Council held in Brussels on 16 and 17 October 2003,
  - having regard to the Commission's Communication of 11 March 2003 on Wider Europe: A Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours (COM(2003)104),
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on the Northern Dimension, in particular the resolutions adopted in January and November 2003 on the Second Action Plan for the Northern Dimension,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Presidency-in-Office has called for a Ministerial Meeting on the Northern Dimension to be held in Brussels on 21 November 2005, to elaborate on the future of the Northern Dimension after the expiry of the current action plan in 2006,
- B. whereas the Commission is currently drawing up its proposals for the future of the Northern Dimension policies, which will have to be adopted in 2006 and come into force in 2007,
- C. whereas the European Council has repeatedly emphasised the importance of the Northern Dimension in the policies of the European Union, both internally and in external policies,
- D. whereas the previously stated policy objectives of the European Parliament concerning the Northern Dimension have been only partially implemented; whereas, in particular, its call for greater involvement of elected representatives is still to be met through the establishment of the Northern Dimension Forum, and Northern Dimension policies continue to have low visibility and suffer from a lack of coordination between the various actors,
- E. whereas the principal objectives of the future Northern Dimension policy are to provide a common framework for the promotion of dialogue and cooperation, aiming at strengthening stability, well-being and sustainable development in Northern Europe and the Arctic and to stimulate trade, investment and infrastructure, to exploit energy resources, 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,
- F. whereas the enlargement has brought with it a new emphasis on cooperation around the Baltic Sea since all Baltic Sea states other than Russia are members of the European Union, which will require the elaboration of a separate Baltic Sea strategy within the

Northern Dimension,

- G. whereas, since its creation in 1999, the Northern Dimension has proved efficient and of political, economic and social value and the Northern Dimension covers one of the most challenging regions of Europe, with a huge potential for future cooperation with Russia; whereas cooperation with Russia has been too dominant in our external Northern Dimension policies, thus neglecting the other northern neighbours and partners, Iceland and Norway in particular,
  - H. underlining, in particular, the value and impact of the Northern Dimension's environmental policy throughout the region and stressing the need for a coherent EU action plan to protect the Baltic Sea, one of the world's most polluted seas, which is almost internal to the EU,
  - I. stressing further the need to enhance cooperation between EU Member States and between EU and Russia to reduce the risk of oil tanker accidents and oil field exploitation and to improve nuclear safety and nuclear waste management,
1. Takes the view that the Northern Dimension must be given higher visibility in order to achieve its objectives and that improved coordination between the various actors involved remains a key challenge;
  2. Calls on the Commission to create a comprehensive approach in the external Northern Dimension policies of the Union, both bilateral and multilateral, including the Baltic Sea and Barents region as well as the Arctic as a whole; stresses the special status of Russia as a key partner while underlining the important role of the other Northern neighbours, Iceland and Norway, as well as the other Arctic partners, Canada and the United States; stresses the importance of fully involving the Northern neighbours in the new Neighbourhood Policy and taking them into account in the regulation on a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument;
  3. Urges the Commission, as part of its current work on the future of the Northern Dimension, to seriously consider whether an own budget line for the Northern Dimension would assist in adding visibility, while being in line with the Northern Dimension's character as a framework policy for the northern region; considers that such a proposal must take account of and increase the transparency of the various sources of financing, including co-financing from third parties; underlines the need to take into account the special needs of the northern regions in the work of all directorates-general and in all parts of the EU budget;
  4. Reminds the Commission, the Council and the Member States of its earlier calls for a greater role for elected representatives and parliamentarians within the Northern Dimension; expects concrete proposals from the Commission in this respect and reiterates its support for playing a full part in the Northern Dimension Forum and hosting its first meeting; stresses the importance of supporting the setting-up of permanent networks between regional authorities, local communities and NGOs in the region in order to raise public awareness and enhance the accountability and effectiveness of EU policies in the area;

5. Calls on the Commission to include a separate and distinctive Baltic Sea strategy in its forthcoming proposal, in order to strengthen cooperation around the Baltic Sea and make the most of benefits of the recent enlargement of the Union; believes that this strategy would primarily deal with internal policies of the European Union, while cooperation with Russia would fall within the external policies of the EU;
6. Calls for improved coordination between the EU, the Arctic Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Nordic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and other bodies involved in cooperation in the northern regions;
7. Supports the Commission and the Council in their efforts to fully involve Russia in the policies within the Northern Dimension, but points out the need to fully engage with other neighbours in the north, notably Norway and Iceland, in particular in the areas of maritime development and energy; welcomes in this context the White Paper on the High North published by the Norwegian Government;
8. Reminds the Commission of the forthcoming International Polar Year 2006-2007 and calls on the Commission to use this opportunity to take new initiatives together with the Arctic partners, including Canada and the United States, in particular as regards the work on a 'Charter for Arctic Governance';
9. Takes the view that the Commission should meet the following challenges in the forthcoming proposals:
  - the continued existence of the authoritarian regime in Belarus and the necessity of a more effective EU policy to assist civil society and democratic forces in Belarus,
  - the need to further open up and democratise the Russian Federation,
  - the weak common identity around the Baltic Sea following decades of artificial separation,
  - the lack of involvement and input from the indigenous peoples living in the region,
  - the need to include sea and rail transport in TEN projects in the region, including measures to strengthen maritime safety;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, Norway, Iceland, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Canada, and the United States, and the regional cooperation actors.