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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

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

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on behalf of the PSE Group

on the EU-Russia Summit in Khanty-Mansiisk on 26-27 June 2008

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European Parliament resolution on the EU-Russia Summit in Khanty-Mansiisk on 26-27 June 2008

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part¹, which entered into force in 1997 and expired in 2007,
 - having regard to the objective of the EU and Russia, set out in the joint statement issued following the St Petersburg Summit of 31 May 2003, to set up a common economic space, a common space of freedom, security and justice, a common space of cooperation in the field of external security and a common space of research and education, including cultural aspects,
 - having regard to the EU-Russia human rights consultations, and in particular the most recent consultations, which took place on 17 April 2008,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on EU relations with Russia, and in particular its resolution of 14 November 2007 on the EU-Russia Summit in Mafra,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas relations between the EU and Russia have been developing steadily over the past decade, leading to deep and comprehensive economic integration and interdependency, which is bound to increase even more in the near future,
- B. whereas enhanced cooperation and good-neighbourly relations between the EU and Russia are of key importance to the stability, security and prosperity of the whole of Europe,
- C. whereas the conclusion of a Strategic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation remains of the utmost importance for the further development and intensification of the cooperation between the two partners,
- D. whereas negotiations on that new Strategic Partnership Agreement should be opened as soon as possible, on the basis of the progress already achieved towards the establishment of the four common areas, namely a common economic area, an area of freedom, security and justice, an area of external security and an area of research, education and culture; whereas the rapid implementation of those four common areas should be at the heart of the negotiations on the new Strategic Partnership Agreement,
- E. whereas the new Russian President, Dmitry Medvedev, was inaugurated on 7 May 2008 and confirmed, in his inauguration speech, his commitment to the establishment of a

¹ OJ L 327, 28.11.1997, p. 1.

mature and effective legal system as an essential condition for economic and social development in Russia, as well as for increasing Russia's influence in the international community and for making Russia more open to the world and facilitating dialogue with other peoples on an equal footing,

- F. whereas the rapid accession of the Russian Federation to the World Trade Organisation would make a substantial contribution to the further improvement of economic relations between Russia and the European Union,
- G. whereas security of energy supply is one of the biggest challenges for Europe and one of the major fields of cooperation with Russia; whereas joint efforts must be made to make full and efficient use both of existing energy transport systems and of those to be developed,
- H. whereas disputes over the conditions for the supply and transport of energy should be solved in a negotiated, non-discriminatory and transparent way, and must never be used as an instrument for exerting political pressure on the EU Member States or on the countries in the common neighbourhood,
- I. whereas a future agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation should therefore include the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty,
- J. whereas the European Union and the Russian Federation could and should together play an active role in establishing peace and stability on the European continent, in particular in the common neighbourhood, and in other parts of the world,
- K. whereas the European Union and the Russian Federation should, in particular, work together to find a definitive solution to the international status of Kosovo and the peaceful settlement of the persistently dangerous conflicts in the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia,
- L. whereas serious concern remains over developments in the Russian Federation with regard to respect for and the protection of human rights, and over respect for commonly-agreed democratic principles, rules and procedures; whereas the Russian Federation is a full member of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and has therefore committed itself to the principles of democracy and respect for basic human rights,
- M. whereas it is important for the EU to speak with one voice, show solidarity and display unity in its relations with the Russian Federation, and to base those relations on mutual interests and common values,
 - 1. Reconfirms its belief that Russia remains an important partner for the building of strategic cooperation, and one with whom the EU shares not only economic and trade interests but also the objective of cooperating closely in the international arena as well as in the common neighbourhood;
 - 2. Stresses the importance of unity among the EU Member States in their relations with Russia, and calls on the Member States to give priority to the long-term benefits of a joint

position in negotiations with the Russian Federation, over the possible short-term advantages of bilateral deals on individual issues; calls on the European Union, its Member States and the Russian Government to create the necessary conditions for a rapid opening of the negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia;

3. Welcomes the inauguration of Dmitry Medvedev as the new President of the Russian Federation; expresses the hope that he will commit himself and his government to further fundamental improvement of the relations between the European Union and the Russian Federation;
4. Welcomes the consensus reached by the EU Council Presidency, the European Commission and Lithuania on a mandate for the European Commission to open negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia;
5. Urges the Commission, the Council and the Member States of the European Union to use – together with the government of the Russian Federation – the 21st EU-Russia Summit in Khanty-Mansiisk as a genuine springboard for the further intensification of EU-Russia relations by opening negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and thereby laying the foundations for further tangible results in the near future;
6. Expresses the hope that an agreement can soon be reached on the conditions for a rapid accession of the Russian Federation to the World Trade Organisation;
7. Welcomes the ongoing exchanges of views on human rights in Russia within the framework of the EU-Russia human rights consultations, and calls for the format of those meetings be improved in order to increase their efficacy, with special attention being paid to joint action against racism and xenophobia; emphasises, however, that the current situation in Russia gives serious cause for concern in terms of respect for human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and the rights of civil society and individuals to challenge the authorities and hold them accountable for their actions; underlines the importance for the development of civil society of NGOs that are independent of national governments;
8. Reiterates, moreover, the importance of setting up the Common Economic Space (CES) and of further developing the objectives agreed upon in the CES Road Map, especially as regards the creation of an open and integrated market between the EU and Russia;
9. Stresses the importance of improving the climate for European investment in Russia, which can only be achieved by promoting and facilitating non-discriminatory and transparent business conditions, less bureaucracy and two-way investment; expresses concern at the lack of predictability in the application of rules by the authorities;
10. Welcomes the intensified EU-Russia dialogue on energy issues; underlines the importance for European economies of energy imports, which provide a potential opportunity for further trade and economic cooperation between the EU and Russia; stresses that the principles of interdependence and transparency should be the basis for such cooperation, together with equal access to markets, infrastructure and investment; calls on the Council and the Commission to ensure that the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty, the Transit

Protocol annexed thereto and the G8 conclusions are included in the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia, including further cooperation on energy efficiency, energy saving and renewable energy; points out that those principles should be applied to major energy infrastructure projects; calls for the European Union to speak to Russia with one voice on those sensitive energy matters;

11. Appeals to the governments of Russia and the United States to intensify discussions on the defence and security issues directly or indirectly involving the Member States of the European Union; urges the governments of both states fully to involve the European Union and its Member States in such discussions and to refrain from taking any steps or decisions which might be considered a threat to peace and stability on the European continent;
12. Calls on the Russian Government to make a positive contribution to the efforts of the Contact Group for Kosovo and the European Union to find a sustainable political solution to the future status of Kosovo that is acceptable to the parties involved in the conflict;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Council to pursue joint initiatives with the Russian Government aimed at strengthening security and stability in the common neighbourhood, in particular by means of enhanced dialogue on the final status of Kosovo and on the establishment of democracy in Belarus, and through joint efforts finally to resolve the frozen conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Moldova and Georgia;
14. Calls on the EU and on Russia, as a member of the UN Security Council, to continue their efforts to make progress in the Middle East peace process and to find a solution to the Iranian nuclear issue;
15. Welcomes the initiatives to introduce visa-free travel between the European Union and Russia; calls for further cooperation on illegal immigration, improved checks on identity documents and better information exchange on terrorism and organised crime; emphasises that the Council and the Commission must ensure that Russia complies with all the conditions set in any negotiated agreement on the elimination of visas between the two sides, in order to prevent any breach of security and democracy in Europe;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States and of the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.