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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 PPE-DE Group

on the EU-Russia Summit in Khanty-Mansiysk in June 2008

European Parliament resolution on the EU-Russia Summit in Khanty-Mansiysk in 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 part,
 - having regard to the objective of the EU and Russia, set out in the joint statement issued following the 11th EU-Russia Summit, held on 31 May 2003 in St Petersburg, 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 outcome of the 21st EU-Russia Summit, which took place on 14 November 2007 in Mafra,
 - having regard to the EU-Russia human rights consultations, and in particular their seventh round on 17 April 2008 covering freedom of the media, expression and assembly, especially in the light of the recent parliamentary and presidential elections, the functioning of civil society, the rights of persons belonging to minorities, combating racism and xenophobia, and the rights of children,
 - having regard to the progress report 2007 on the implementation of the EU-Russia Common Spaces prepared by the Commission,
 - having regard to the outcome of the eighth meeting of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice held in St Petersburg on 24-25 April 2008,
 - having regard to the statement by the chair of the EP delegation to the EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Council following the EU-Russia working group visit to Moscow on 17-18 March 2008,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on EU relations with Russia,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the European Union and Russia, which is a member of the UN Security Council, share a responsibility for global stability and security and whereas enhanced cooperation and good-neighbourly relations between the EU and Russia are of particular importance to the stability, security and prosperity of Europe,
- B. whereas the Russian Federation is a full member of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and has therefore

committed itself to the principles of democracy laid down by these organisations,

- C. whereas there is serious concern about the developments in the Russian Federation with regard to respect for and protection of human rights and respect for commonly agreed democratic principles, rules and procedures,
- D. whereas the conclusion of a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation remains of the utmost importance for the further development and intensification of cooperation between the two partners,
- E. whereas the rapid implementation of the four Common Spaces, with a Common Economic Space, a Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice, a Common Space of External Security and a Common Space of Research, Education and Culture, should be at the heart of the negotiations on the new Strategic Partnership Agreement,
- F. whereas the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO would make a substantial contribution to the further improvement of economic relations between Russia and the EU, subject to a binding commitment to full compliance with and implementation of WTO commitments and obligations,
- G. whereas security of energy supply is one of the biggest challenges for Europe and one of the major areas of cooperation with Russia, and whereas joint efforts are needed to make full and efficient use of energy transport systems, both those already existing and those to be further developed,
- H. whereas recently Russia has included some of the EU's largest energy companies in a strategic partnership role in several major energy projects or has allowed EU companies to buy some limited strategic stakes in Russian companies; whereas the upholding of legal certainty and property rights is essential in order to maintain the current level of foreign investment in Russia,
- I. whereas disputes about the conditions of supply and transport of energy should be solved in a negotiated, non-discriminatory and transparent way and must never be used as a means of exerting political pressure on the EU Member States and on the countries in the common neighbourhood,
- J. whereas a future agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation should therefore include the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty,
- K. whereas it is in the interest of both Russia's and the EU's economies to diversify their trade relations, as the disproportionate share of trade in energy makes their economies vulnerable to price changes for these products, as the past has shown,
- L. whereas the European Union and the Russian Federation could and should play an active role together in establishing peace and stability on the European continent, in particular in the common neighbourhood, and in other parts of the world, including Iran and the Middle East,
- M. whereas new tensions have arisen in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, where the situation is

deteriorating due to steps taken by the Russian Federation, including the announcement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16 April that official ties were to be established with institutions of the de facto authorities in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the announcement by the Russian Ministry of Defence on 29 April that the number of CIS 'peacekeepers' in Abkhazia was to be increased and the incident involving the downing of a Georgian unmanned aerial vehicle by a Russian fighter plane in Georgian airspace on 20 April,

- N. whereas Russia has suspended its participation in the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), stating that it will halt inspections and verifications of its military sites by NATO countries and will no longer limit the number of its conventional weapons,
- O. whereas after his meeting with the EU ministerial troika on Tuesday, 29 April in Luxembourg, the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, confirmed Russia's participation in the EU military operation in Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR Chad/RCA),
- P. whereas it is important that the EU should speak with one voice, show solidarity and display unity in its relations with the Russian Federation, and base those relations on mutual interests and commitments to common values,
 - 1. Underlines that the forthcoming Summit will be the first EU-Russia Summit attended by Russia's newly elected President Dmitry Medvedev and expressed its hopes that this meeting will mark an improvement in relations between the EU and Russia;
 - 2. Reiterates its conviction that Russia remains an important partner for the purpose of building strategic cooperation based on commitments to common values, a partner with which the EU shares not only economic and trade interests but also the objective of cooperating closely in the international arena;
 - 3. Calls on the Russian Government and the EU to create together the necessary conditions for a rapid start to the negotiations on a new PCA between the EU and Russia; stresses the importance of unity and solidarity among the EU Member States in their relations with Russia; stresses once more, in this connection, that democracy and human rights must be at the core of any future agreement with the Russian Federation;
 - 4. Welcomes in this context the encouraging statements made at the meeting of the EU foreign ministers on 29 April in Luxembourg, which could lead to an easing of the situation and to the initiation of the talks on the new agreement before the Summit in Khanty-Mansiysk;
 - 5. Welcomes President Medvedev's remarks on the importance of the rule of law and human rights in Russia and hopes for further progress in this area;
 - 6. Notes the continuous exchange of views on human rights in Russia as part of the EU-Russia human rights consultations; emphasises, however, that the current situation in Russia gives rise to serious concern in terms of respect for human rights, democracy, freedom of expression and the rights of civil society and individuals to challenge authorities and hold them accountable for their actions; calls on Russia to hold the human

rights dialogues alternately in the EU and Russia;

7. Calls on the Russian Federation to show its commitment to common values by ratifying Additional Protocol 14 to the European Convention on Human Rights, thereby allowing important reforms to go ahead at the European Court of Human Rights, which is burdened with a backlog of tens of thousands of cases;
8. Calls for a stepping-up of the EU-Russia human rights dialogue and for this process to be opened up to effective input from the European Parliament, the State Duma and civil society and human rights organisations; calls on Russia to respect fully its obligations as a member of the Council of Europe, including respecting the right of association, the right of peaceful demonstration and freedom of the media; underlines the importance of NGOs independent of national governments for the development of civil society and calls on the Russian authorities to apply the new NGO law in such a way that the new requirements do not create an excessive burden on these organisations;
9. Draws attention to the unbearable working conditions and the pressurising and intimidation of journalists in the Russian Federation, some of whom have been murdered - crimes which remain unsolved - and expresses its particular concern about a proposed amendment to the media law which the Duma approved at first reading on 25 April and which would give Rossvyazokhrankultura, the federal agency that oversees the media, the power to close down any media organ deemed to have committed defamation on more than one occasion; recommends instead 'media self-regulation' as the way to increase the responsibility of journalists;
10. Notes the positive dynamics in the ongoing work on the practical implementation of the road maps for the four Common Spaces, and stresses that further deepening of the partnership would be mutually beneficial;
11. Reiterates the particular importance of setting up the Common Economic Space (CES) and further developing the objectives agreed on in the CES road map, especially as regards the creation of an open market between the EU and Russia;
12. 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; is concerned about the lack of predictability in the application of rules by the authorities as demonstrated by the politically motivated charges against Mikhail Khodorkovsky, and calls upon the Russian authorities to make a symbolic step forward by ending his mistreatment;
13. Welcomes the intensified EU-Russia dialogue on energy issues; underlines the importance of energy imports for European economies, representing 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 of 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, which, pursuant to Article 45 thereof, is binding on Russia even prior to its ratification by the Russian State Duma, the Transit Protocol annexed thereto and the G8 conclusions are

incorporated in a new PCA between the EU and Russia as being as effective as the Charter itself, including provision for further cooperation on energy efficiency, energy saving and renewable energy; points out that these principles should be applied to major energy infrastructure projects; calls for the EU to speak to Russia with one voice on these sensitive energy matters; calls upon the partners in the EU-Russia energy dialogue to examine the possibility of billing Russian energy supplies to the EU in euros in order to become independent from third countries' currencies;

14. Welcomes the progress made since the last Summit in Mafra as regards Russia's accession to the WTO, which will create a level playing field for the business communities on both sides and greatly help Russian efforts to build a modern, diversified, high-technology economy; calls on Russia to take the necessary steps to remove the remaining obstacles to the accession process, especially in the field of export taxes and duties, and to be able to comply in full with and implement WTO membership commitments and obligations, following which the EU should start to discuss the conclusion of a free trade agreement with the Russian Federation;
15. Regrets the fact that Russia did not honour its commitment to phase out Siberian overflight payments and calls on Russia to sign the agreement reached on this issue at the summit in Samara;
16. Welcomes the progress which the EU and Russia have made in implementing their Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice, which so far has focused primarily on the implementation of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements, which have proved to be a significant step towards visa-free travel as a long-term prospect; 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, so as to prevent any breach of security and democracy in Europe;
17. Points out that Russia, which last year changed its visa rules and ceased issuing one-year multiple-entry business visas that many European workers had previously used, could face an exodus of EU managers and workers unless it changes the new rules and reduces the onerous red tape required to obtain visas and work permits;
18. Welcomes the stepping-up of EU-Russia cooperation in space in the framework of the Tripartite Space Dialogue set up in March 2006 between the Commission, the European Space Agency and Roscosmos, encompassing space applications (satellite navigation, earth observation and satellite communications), access to space (launchers and future space transportation systems), space science and space technology development; notes that within the Common Economic Space, cooperation in space has been identified as a priority sector;
19. Calls for participation by the Russian Federation in the process of building European Research Infrastructures supported within the European Community Framework Programmes; considers that such an incentive would enable efficient utilisation and further development of large Russian human and financial resources in the area of research, development and innovation, and thus be beneficial for both Europe and Russia;

20. Expresses its deep disapproval of Russia's announcement that it would establish official ties with institutions of the separatist authorities in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, reaffirms its full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders and calls on Russia to revoke this decision, which undermines the international peace efforts in which the Russian Federation is also participating;
21. Strongly condemns Russia's military build-up in Abkhazia and urges the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its additional troops; believes that, while the Russian military build-up may be within the overall numerical strength of the CIS peacekeeping contingent set by the CIS Council of Heads of State, in the political reality of today it does not ease tension but increases it;
22. Urges all parties involved to refrain from any actions that could lead towards an escalation of the situation in the region, reiterates its support for international efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia conflicts and welcomes the recent specific proposals put forward by the President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili regarding the resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia, such as: broad political representation at the highest levels of the Georgian Government, granting of veto rights on all major legislation related to Abkhazia, and establishment of international guarantees to ensure broad federalism, unlimited autonomy and security; calls on the European Union to be more actively involved in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict, to act as a mediator and to offer concrete support for the proposals put forward by President Saakashvili;
23. Takes note of the ongoing consultations between Russia and the United States on the planned US missile defence system, recognises its substantial contribution to the protection of the EU from long-range ballistic missiles, encourages the Russian Federation to take advantage of the missile defence cooperation proposals and calls on all parties involved in the project to start working on linking US, NATO and Russian missile defence systems;
24. Recognises the need for further cooperation with Russia to prevent the proliferation of WMD and calls on both sides to assume their responsibility in particular for the North Korean and Iranian nuclear issues;
25. Calls on Russia to reconsider its unilateral suspension of compliance with the CFE Treaty and to use the path of negotiations in order to protect its legitimate interests and avoid an erosion of the CFE Treaty; calls on the NATO Members to ratify the Treaty's 1999 amended version;
26. Welcomes Russia's decision to assist the EU in carrying out its peace-keeping operation in Chad and the Central African Republic and supports the statement by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and the EU High Representative Javier Solana stipulating that cooperation between Russia and the EU on crisis management would not be limited to Russia's participation in EUFOR Chad/RCA and that both parties are ready to sign a framework agreement on this subject on the basis of an 'equitable partnership and cooperation';
27. 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, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.