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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the pressure exerted by Russia on Eastern Partnership countries  
(2013/2826(RSP))

**Charles Tannock, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Tomasz Piotr Poręba,  
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Adam Bielan**

on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on the pressure exerted by Russia on Eastern Partnership countries  
(2013/2826(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Eastern Partnership Summit to be held in Vilnius in November 2013,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia and on Association Agreements with the Eastern Partnership countries,
- having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Association Agreements constitute a good framework for deepening relations by enhancing political association, socio-economic integration and legal approximation with the EU, and for developing cultural relations;
- B. whereas Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have finalised a long process of negotiating Association Agreements with the EU, and have good prospects of initialling or signing them at the Vilnius Summit to be held in November 2013;
- C. whereas Russian officials have repeatedly stated that Russia regards the Eastern Partnership countries as part of its sphere of influence;
- D. whereas the customs union project, which Russia has been pursuing with Belarus and Kazakhstan since 2010, has not been achieved so far and is being used by Moscow as a geopolitical tool to exert pressure on the countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus;
- E. whereas in the run-up to the Vilnius Summit Russia has intensified its efforts to divert the Eastern Partnership countries from initialling and signing the Association Agreements with the EU, using all possible means, including economic, political and diplomatic pressure, threats and economically unjustified increases in gas and oil prices;
- F. whereas Russia is exerting enormous pressure on some of the Eastern Partnership countries by using regional unresolved frozen conflicts in which it plays or can play an active security role;
- G. whereas the Russian authorities exert constant economic pressure on countries whose economy depends largely or entirely on their cooperation with the Russian Federation; whereas the Kremlin is using this situation to acquire control over energy infrastructure and the domestic gas and oil supply network;
- H. whereas such types of economic pressure plainly indicate the Kremlin's geopolitical plans to reduce the independence and sovereignty of its neighbours and rebuild its sphere of unique influence;

- I. whereas Russian success with even one Eastern Partnership country could have a ‘domino effect’ and constitute a serious blow to the whole EU programme;
1. Underlines the importance of EU readiness to initial or sign the Association Agreements with the Eastern Partnership countries as soon as possible, even before the Vilnius Summit if need be;
  2. Strongly condemns the unfair pressure exerted by the Russian Federation on Eastern Partnership countries; considers the means used by the Kremlin as being in breach of the normal standards of diplomacy and in some cases possibly of international law;
  3. Warns Russia that the instrumental use of unresolved conflicts in pursuit of short-term political goals may lead to the resumption of hostilities and the destabilisation of the whole region;
  4. Acknowledges the sovereign right of Eastern Partnership countries to take decisions about their participation in any regional economic or political blocs; points out, however, that such decisions should have strong democratic legitimacy and reminds the authorities of the instruments that remain at their disposal, such as a national referendum;
  5. Calls on the VP/HR and the Commission to open access to EU markets as soon as possible for those Eastern Partnership countries that have finalised negotiations on Association Agreements, once all the conditions set therein have been fulfilled;
  6. Calls, similarly, for the rapid liberalisation of the EU visa regime, which would be the best way to enhance people-to-people contacts and develop relations between the societies of the EU and of Eastern Partnership countries and which, in consequence, will become an important factor in closer political and economic integration;
  7. Recalls that offering and negotiating Association Agreements with our Eastern European partners has exposed them to Russia’s openly threatening and escalating pressures intended to deter them from entering into association with the EU, which in turn gives the EU a responsibility to engage and to defend them;
  8. Underlines the fact that entering the customs union could potentially breach the main World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules and principles, for those states which are members; recalls that Kazakhstan and Belarus are not WTO members; notes, moreover, that the situation would be further complicated by the lack of common borders between current and potential customs union members;
  9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the European External Action Service, and the authorities of the Eastern Partnership countries and of the Russian Federation.