

ORAL QUESTION H-0017/09  
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2009  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Katrin Saks  
to the Council

Subject: Border between the European Union, Estonia and Russia

In 1997, the European Union recommended that Russia sign a border agreement with Estonia without delay. On 18 May 2005, the States signed a border agreement from which Russia withdrew its signature because the Russian authorities did not agree with the unilateral declaration added by the Estonian Parliament referring to the Tartu Peace Treaty of 1920 and the occupation after the Second World War. At the end of August 2006, Russia proposed to Estonia that negotiations begin on new border agreements in which it would be stated that there were no territorial claims between the parties and that all previous agreements dealing with border matters ceased to apply. In an interview given to the news agency Interfax on 25 December 2007, Estonia's Foreign Minister, Urmas Paet, called on the Russian authorities to ratify the border agreement; at the same time, Estonia welcomed the entry into force of the border agreements between Russia and Latvia on 18 December 2007. Any progress towards placing relations between the EU and Russia on a firm footing in the form of treaties is in the interest of the whole EU and of Estonia too. The entry into force of the border agreement between Latvia and Russia could encourage Russia also to proceed with the border agreement between Estonia and Russia.

Could the Council Presidency specify its position and measures to be projected in support of a Member State of the Union which faces such a significant problem as contesting of State borders and refusal to recognise them?

Tabled: 15.01.2009  
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