

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on International Trade

2004/2170(INI)

16.3.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on Relations between the EU and Russia
(2004/2170(INI))

Draftsman: Jas Gawronski

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Emphasises the importance of Russia as an EU trading partner, which has increased with the recent EU enlargement, and the necessity to intensify the EU-Russia trading relationship further in the future;
2. Notes that the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) establishes the basis of the development of economic relations between Russia and the EU; supports the on-going work on the "Common Economic Space", based on free market laws, with a view to creating an open and integrated market between the EU and its largest neighbour, Russia, thereby promoting trade and investment and enhancing the competitiveness of the EU and Russian economies;
3. Welcomes the conclusion of the EU's bilateral negotiations with Russia concerning its WTO accession and calls on the Commission to help facilitate the remaining stages of the accession process, whilst ensuring that the terms are fully compliant with WTO rules;
4. Notes that WTO membership will send an important signal to foreign investors, thereby helping to strengthen and diversify trade links;
5. Expresses concern that, nevertheless, recent developments in the Russian judicial system may have a negative impact on potential EU and other investors, therefore invites the Commission to give priority to judicial capacity building when allocating TACIS funding;
6. Stresses the need to speed up the work involved in adopting an action plan for Russia, in particular, with a view to replacing, within two years, the present TACIS funding by the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument;
7. Welcomes the agreement on the trade-related questions of energy and fuels, particularly with regard to the supply of oil and gas, and stresses the importance of ensuring that the commitments made during the WTO accession process will be fulfilled;
8. Calls on the Commission to continue and strengthen dialogue with the Russian authorities and with economic partners on issues of trade and economic co-operation, covering in particular technical regulations and the standardisation of customs procedures, the liberalisation of services, the abolition of monopolies and the opening-up of the banking system and to ensure that Russia puts in place intellectual property enforcement measures resulting in a substantial reduction in IPR piracy prior to Russia's accession to the WTO;

9. Expresses the hope that - without prejudice to mutual security - there will be a progressive reduction in the obstacles to the movement of persons, which make the development of economic and commercial relations between the EU and Russia more difficult;
10. Calls on the Commission to step up cooperation with Russia in coordination with projects under the Northern Dimension;
11. Calls on the Commission, in agreement with the European Parliament, in the case of breaches of human rights or of the rights of national and other minorities in Russia, to apply the same trade restrictions for Russia as for other countries and to avoid the application of double standards;
12. Calls on the Commission, in dialogue with the Russian Government, to ensure that the human rights situation in Chechnya is improved;
13. Calls on the Commission, in providing assistance for Russia through the TACIS programme, to allocate funding for the implementation of the objectives of the Interreg III programme in the EU's neighbouring countries and regions - Belarus, Ukraine, Kaliningrad, Moldova and the St. Petersburg region;
14. Calls on the EU and Russia to develop deeper integration by preparing and starting negotiations on the Free Trade Area immediately after Russia's accession to the WTO. The EU-Russia Free Trade Area agreement will be an ambitious stage in the formation of the Common Economic Space, covering trade in goods, services, establishment, rules on government procurement, regulatory compatibility and other trade aspects;
15. Calls on the EU and Russia to devote special attention to the social and economic development of the Kaliningrad region, including the effective utilisation of the benefits of the Kaliningrad Special economic zone, thereby contributing to the formation of the Common Economic Space.

PROCEDURE ⁽¹⁾

Title	Relations between the EU and Russia
Procedure number	2004/2170(INI)
Committee responsible	AFET
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	INTA
Enhanced cooperation	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Jas Gawronski 30.09.2004
Discussed in committee	15.01.2005
Date suggestions adopted	15.03.2005
Result of final vote	for: 23 against: 0 abstentions: 0
Members present for the final vote	Enrique Barón Crespo, Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna; Peter Šťastný, Giulietto Chiesa, Francisco Assis, Daniel Caspary, Jan Christian Ehler, Glyn Ford, Béla Glattfelder, Jacky Henin, Sajjad Karim, Caroline Lucas, Erika Mann, Helmuth Markov, Javier Moreno Sánchez; Georgios Papastamkos, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Robert Sturdy, Johan Van Hecke, Zbigniew Zaleski.
Substitutes present for the final vote	Danutė Budreikaitė, Anna Elzbieta Fotyga, Antolín Sánchez Presedo.
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	