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Session document

20 November 2002

B5-0581/2002 }
B5-0583/2002 }
B5-0587/2002 }

RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Arie M. Oostlander and Ilkka Suominen on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Paavo Väyrynen on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Helmuth Markov and Esko Olavi Seppänen on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PPE-DE (B5-0581/2002),
- ELDR (B5-0583/2002),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0587/2002),

on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002

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PE 325.087}
PE 325.089}
PE 325.095} RC1

European Parliament resolution on the outcome of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia,
 - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Russia which entered into force on 1 December 1997,
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 December 2000 on the implementation of the Common Strategy of the European Union on Russia,
 - having regard to its resolution of 10 April 2002 on the situation in Chechnya,
 - having regard to its resolution on the EU-Russia summit of 28 May 2002,
 - having regard to the conclusions of the EU-Russia summit of 11 November 2002,
- A. whereas enhanced and comprehensive cooperation with Russia is of strategic importance for the achievement of stability and security over the whole of Europe and the bordering regions,
- B. pointing out that, mainly due to the lack of a solution to the Kaliningrad issue, relations in recent months have not progressed and should be given a new impetus,
- C. whereas the strategic partnership between the EU and the Russian Federation, as well as the aim of establishing a Common European Economic Area, represent decisive contributions to security and stability on the European continent and, in particular, to the energy dialogue,
- D. welcoming the fact that Russia is now recognised by the EU as a functioning market economy, and hoping for a speedy entry of Russia into the WTO,
- E. whereas the upcoming enlargement will extend the border of the European Union with Russia, thus strengthening the ties between the two sides and the need for good neighbourly relations,
- F. acknowledging the unique situation of the Kaliningrad Region, as part of the Russian Federation but becoming a Russian enclave in EU territory after enlargement,
- G. highlighting the importance of an enhanced dialogue in the fields of security and foreign policy, which should lead to common initiatives on the main topics and crisis areas,
- H. whereas the crisis in Chechnya is ongoing and even worsening after the recent terrorist

attacks in Moscow, and preoccupations over violations of human rights by parties on both sides of the conflict persist,

- I. whereas the Chechen 'initiative group', which includes Chechnya's sole deputy in the State Duma, Aslambek Aslakhanov, denounced the continuing killing including last month's hostage-taking in Moscow, and called on the Russian authorities and the Chechen people to speed up the constitutional process in the republic,
1. Takes note of the agreement on a new transit regime between the Kaliningrad Region and other parts of Russia aiming at ensuring easy passage of borders with a view to facilitating human contacts and promoting the development of the region without infringing upon the legitimate interests of the people of Kaliningrad or the sovereign right of the Republic of Lithuania to exercise control over its borders, lifting thereby a decisive obstacle to the further enhancement of fruitful cooperation with the Russian Federation; foresees, however, practical and technical problems in the implementation of the Facilitated Transit Document and especially of the Facilitated Rail Travel Document;
2. Urges the Commission, in this respect, to monitor closely the mechanisms for implementation of this agreement, assisting Lithuania and Russia in solving all the relevant problems and the remaining still-open issues and technical modalities;
3. Notes that the development of the Kaliningrad Region, which is one of the poorest and most problem-ridden regions in Russia, is an important factor for the overall development of the Baltic Sea area, and therefore encourages all parties concerned to promote the economic development of the region along the line of the Northern Dimension Initiative, and to strengthen the overall cross-border cooperation along the borders of the enlarged European Union with Russia;
4. Reiterates its strong condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Moscow and expresses its solidarity with the victims and their families;
5. Expresses its strong concern about the lack of communication policy of the Russian authorities, even to the doctors on the scene, which has increased the loss of life;
6. Regrets the new measures adopted by the Duma which curb media freedom during 'anti-terrorist' operations, giving the authorities greater control over coverage of crises such as the Moscow theatre siege, including the right of censorship;
7. Welcomes the joint statement of the summit on the Middle East and the fight against terrorism, but reiterates its conviction that the war in Chechnya cannot only be considered as part of the fight against terrorism, and deeply regrets that the summit was unable to reach a common position in this respect;
8. Reiterates its conviction that there is no military solution to the conflict in Chechnya, and continues to call for immediate steps towards a political solution through political dialogue leading to negotiations with all relevant representatives of the Chechen people and the prompt restoration of democracy within the republic, which has to comprise the right to democratic decision-making for the population, including a referendum on a new

constitution outlining the division of powers between the republic and the federal state, followed by elections and the restoration of an elected government in Chechnya;

9. Acknowledges the right and the duty of a state to defend its people against terrorist attacks, but expects Russia to ensure that anti-terrorist measures are proportionate and in full line with the rule of law, especially as regards the rights of innocent civilians; appeals, therefore, to the Russian authorities and the federal forces to punish those guilty of atrocities, and to carry out all military operations in Chechnya with full discipline, observing in particular Decree No 80 by General Maltinskoy, which firmly calls for respect for the rights of the civil population;
10. Calls on the Russian authorities to grant international organisations unhindered access to Chechnya so as to deal with the dramatic humanitarian situation and the plight of refugees and displaced people, and to facilitate the delivery of aid, as well as to allow access without undue restrictions to independent media and human rights monitors;
11. Underlines the need to ensure that repatriation of IDPs and refugees to Chechnya takes place on a basis of full respect for the principles of humanitarian international law and exclusively on a voluntary basis;
12. Recommends updating the common strategy with a view to adapting it to the new challenges arising from the international situation, the enlargement of the EU and the requirements of developments on the European continent;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Government and Parliament of Russia.