

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

25.4.2007

B6-0172/2007 }
B6-0175/2007 }
B6-0178/2007 }
B6-0179/2007 }
B6-0182/2007 }
B6-0186 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Edward McMillan-Scott, Bernd Posselt, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Tunne Kelam, Eija-Riitta Korhola and Simon Coveney, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Pasqualina Napoletano, Panagiotis Beglitis and Jan Marinus Wiersma, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Henrik Lax, Marco Cappato, Marios Matsakis and Janusz Onyszkiewicz, on behalf of the ALDE Group
- Michał Tomasz Kamiński, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Konrad Szymański, Adam Bielan, Inese Vaidere, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Gintaras Didžiokas and Ryszard Czarnecki, on behalf of the UEN Group
- Bart Staes, Milan Horáček and Angelika Beer, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Vittorio Agnoletto and André Brie, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B6-0172/2007)
- ALDE (B6-0175/2007)
- UEN (B6-0178/2007)
- Verts/ALE (B6-0179/2007)
- PPE-DE (B6-0182/2007)
- GUE/NGL (B6-0186)

on Russia

RC\664826EN.doc

PE 389.438v01-00}
PE 389.441v01-00}
PE 389.444v01-00}
PE 389.445v01-00}
PE 389.448v01-00}
PE 389.452v01-00} RC1

European Parliament resolution on Russia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the objectives of consolidating democracy and political freedoms in the Russian Federation, as laid down in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part (PCA),¹ which entered into force in 1997 and expires in 2007,
 - having regard to the EU-Russia human rights dialogue,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on Russia, and in particular its resolution of 25 October 2006 on EU-Russia relations following the murder of the Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya² and its resolution of 13 December 2006 on EU-Russia relations,³
 - having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Russian opposition members rallied in Moscow's Pushkin Square on 14 April; whereas the so-called Dissenters' March was organized by Another Russia, an umbrella group which includes various movements with different political backgrounds,
- B. whereas minutes after the march began, the 2 000 protesters found themselves outnumbered by more than four to one by security forces, who quickly dispersed the activists, beating and briefly detaining those who sought to break through the riot-control lines,
- C. whereas among those detained were the leader of the United Civic Front, former world chess champion Garry Kasparov and Maria Gaidar, the daughter of Russia's first post-Soviet reformist prime minister; former prime minister Mikhail Kasyanov only avoided arrest because his bodyguards helped him to escape; many journalists, including ARD correspondent Stephan Stuchlik, who tried to capture the events and disseminate them to the West, were also beaten and arrested,
- D. whereas on April 15 another protest, albeit far smaller, organised by the same grouping, was broken up in a similar way in St Petersburg, though Garry Kasparov was detained before the protest even began and some demonstrators were arrested preemptively en route to the event,
- E. whereas Vladimir Lukin, Russia's human rights ombudsman, said that he believed police in both cities had exceeded their authority and whereas Valentina Matviyenko, the governor of St Petersburg, ordered an investigation into human rights violations at the rally in St Petersburg,
- F. whereas the Russian authorities, in the run-up to the parliamentary and presidential elections, are increasing pressure on opposition groups and non-governmental organisations to refrain

¹ OJ L 327, 28.11.1997.

² Texts adopted, P6_TA(2006)0448.

³ Texts adopted, P6_TA-PROV(2006)0566.

from any activities directed against the president and the government and to prevent the media from reporting any such activities,

- G. whereas democracy has been weakened in Russia, in particular by the bringing of all major TV stations and most radio stations under government control, the spread of self-censorship among the print media, new restrictions on the right to organise public demonstrations and a worsening climate for NGOs,
- H. whereas the right of free assembly is a fundamental part of the democratic principles and human rights standards that Russia has committed itself to upholding and repeatedly expressed its commitment to; whereas these principles and values are also the basis for the strategic partnership between the European Union and Russia,
- I. whereas as a member of the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, the Russian Federation has undertaken to respect freedom of speech and assembly; whereas observance of these principles is of particular importance in view of the forthcoming elections in Russia,
1. Strongly condemns the use of excessive force by the Russian anti-riot police during last weekend's peaceful demonstrations in Moscow and St Petersburg and calls on the Russian authorities to comply with their international obligations and to respect freedom of expression and freedom of assembly;
 2. Condemns in particular the repressive actions used by the security forces against journalists doing their professional duty; regards such assaults on the media as unacceptable;
 3. Calls on the Russian authorities to order an investigation into the human rights violations at both rallies and to identify and bring to justice those responsible for the violations;
 4. Encourages the Russian State Duma to set up a working group to investigate why such force was used against peaceful demonstrators;
 5. Urges the Commission and the Council to express these concerns clearly in their contacts with the Russian Government, in particular during the next EU-Russian Summit, to be held on 18 May 2007 in Samara;
 6. Calls on the Russian leadership to do its utmost to avoid any repetition of these regrettable events, in particular in the run-up to the next presidential and Duma elections, and to guarantee all political parties and movements a chance to take part in the democratic process; calls on the Central Election Commission and on the Russian judiciary to be vigilant, objective and impartial in scrutinising the campaign and election processes;
 7. Is deeply disturbed by an emerging pattern of use of excessive force by the Russian authorities towards opposition activists, which raises deep concern about the situation of democracy and respect for human rights in the Russian Federation;
 8. Reiterates its call for the EU-Russia Human Rights Dialogue to be stepped up so as to make

it more effective and result-oriented, while fully involving the European Parliament at all levels, with a view to strengthening this element in the new PCA due to be negotiated soon;

9. Emphasises that, in order to achieve visible progress in the situation of democracy in Russia, the EU common policy and Member States' bilateral relations with Russia should be guided by jointly agreed principles and common positions;
10. Urges the Russian authorities fully to respect during the run-up to the parliamentary and presidential elections the democratic standards and principles laid down by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe; calls on the Council of Europe to investigate the human rights violations at the rallies in Moscow and St Petersburg;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Council of Europe and the Government and Parliament of the Russian Federation.