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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

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on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the EU-Russia Summit in Mafra on 26 October 2007

European Parliament resolution on the EU-Russia Summit in Mafra on 26 October 2007

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)¹ between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part, which entered into force in 1997 and expires in 2007,
 - having regard to the objective of the EU and Russia, set out in the joint statement issued following the St Petersburg Summit held on 31 May 2003, to set up a common economic space, a common space of freedom, security and justice, a common space of cooperation in the field of external security and a common space of research and education, including cultural aspects,
 - having regard to the EU-Russia human rights consultations,
 - having regard to its previous resolutions on EU relations with Russia, and in particular those of 10 May 2007 on the EU-Russia Summit in Samara and of 19 June 2007 on EU economic and trade relations with Russia,
 - having regard to the 20th EU-Russia Summit held in Mafra on 26 October 2007,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas relations between the EU and Russia have been steadily developing over the past few years, leading to deep and comprehensive economic integration and interdependence, which are bound to increase even more in the near future,
- B. whereas enhanced cooperation and good-neighbourly relations between the EU and Russia are of key importance to the stability, security and prosperity of the whole of Europe,
- C. whereas the Russian Federation is a full member of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and has therefore committed itself to abiding by the principles of democracy and democratic elections laid down by those organisations,
- D. whereas the EU has repeatedly expressed its concern as to whether Russia is genuinely committed to respecting democratic principles and human rights,
- E. whereas the forthcoming elections in Russia will be an important test in this regard,
- F. whereas in recent months Russia has waged an increasingly vocal campaign against OSCE election observers. accusing them of bias and of focusing almost exclusively on

¹ OJ L 327, 28.11.1997, p. 1.

elections ‘east of Vienna’; whereas Russia's diplomatic delegation to the OSCE's headquarters in Vienna last month circulated proposals to limit missions by the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to 50 people and bar them from making public assessments immediately after elections; whereas, according to Vladimir Churov, head of the Central Electoral Commission, Russia will invite ‘300 to 400 foreign observers’ to the 2 December election - a fraction of the 1165 present at the last parliamentary poll in March 2003,

- G. whereas the conclusion of a new PCA between the EU and the Russian Federation is of the utmost importance for their future cooperation, in particular with regard to the further development of economic relations, to the further enhancement of security and stability in Europe and to the further strengthening of respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law as the basis of that cooperation,
- H. whereas the start of the negotiations on the new PCA has been delayed and made conditional upon the Russian Government lifting a ban on Polish agricultural imports introduced in 2005; whereas efforts are being made by the EU and Russia to find a compromise on the Polish imports issue, in order to end this political impasse, and on the shutting down of the ‘Druzhba’ pipeline to Lithuania, which appeared to be politically motivated,
- I. whereas the rapid and effective implementation of the four common spaces, involving a common economic space, a space of freedom, security and justice, a space of external security and a space of research, education and culture, should be at the heart of the negotiations on the new Strategic Partnership Agreement,
- J. whereas between 2000 and 2007 economic cooperation between the EU and Russia increased by a factor of five, reaching a volume of EUR 180 billion per annum in absolute terms, making Russia the third most important trading partner for the EU (after the US and China), and the EU the most important one for Russia,
- K. whereas Russia is one of the most important sources of imported steel products for the EU, and is now second only to China; whereas, in monetary terms, 2006 imports of steel from Russia represented trade worth EUR 3366 bn,
- L. whereas the underlying principles governing economic and trade relations between the EU and the Russian Federation should be reciprocity, transparency, predictability, reliability, non-discrimination and good governance,
- M. whereas there is very serious traffic congestion on borders between EU Member States and Russia in Kaliningrad and at border crossing points with several Member States elsewhere,
- N. whereas there was a clear Russian commitment at the EU-Russia Summit held in Samara in May 2007 to sign the agreement on Siberian overflights; whereas the prospects of this happening in the near future seem to be very slim,
- O. whereas the rapid accession of the Russian Federation to the World Trade Organisation as a responsible member would make a substantial contribution to the further

improvement of economic relations between Russia and the European Union, subject to full compliance with and implementation of WTO commitments and obligations,

- P. whereas on the eve of the Summit investment and business relations were discussed at the EU-Russia Industrialists Round Table, a bilateral group headed by Nils Andersen, chief executive of AP Moller-Maersk of Denmark, and Anatoly Chubais, head of UES, the Russian electricity group,
- Q. whereas, according to EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, energy is the biggest single issue in the EU-Russia economic relationship and a key topic at the biannual EU-Russia Summits,
- R. whereas recently Russia has included some of the EU's largest energy companies in a strategic partnership role in several major energy projects or has allowed EU companies to buy strategic stakes in Russian companies; noting, however, that the dismantling of Yukos and the auctioning-off of its assets do not provide for a transparent business environment; noting, further, the decision of the Swiss Federal Tribunal, which ruled that the Russian authorities' prosecution of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Yukos was illegal and politically motivated,
- S. whereas security of energy supply is one of the biggest challenges for Europe and one of the major areas of cooperation with Russia, and whereas joint efforts are needed to make full and efficient use of energy transport systems, both those already existing and those to be further developed,
- T. whereas disputes about the conditions of supply and transport of energy should be solved in a negotiated, non-discriminatory and transparent way and must never be used as a means of exerting political pressure on the EU Member States and on the countries in the common neighbourhood,
- U. whereas a future agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation should therefore incorporate the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty, which, pursuant to Article 45 thereof, is binding on Russia even prior to its ratification by the Russian State Duma,
- V. whereas the first EU-Russia meeting on the energy deregulation package drafted by the Commission and designed to boost competition and investment in the energy sector took place in Moscow on 22 October 2007,
- W. whereas the European Union and the Russian Federation could and should together play an active role in establishing peace and stability on the European continent, in particular in the common neighbourhood, and in other parts of the world, including Iran and the Middle East,
- X. whereas absolute priority should be given by both partners to finding a solution to the problem of the future status of Kosovo which can be accepted by all parties involved in the conflict and to finding a solution to other 'frozen conflicts' in Moldova and in the Southern Caucasus,

- Y. whereas declarations made by the Russian authorities in reaction to the US plans to establish parts of its missile defence system in Poland and the Czech Republic and Russia's inappropriate threat to pull out of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) have raised serious concerns about the preservation of peace and stability on the European continent,
- Z. whereas it is important that the EU speaks with one voice, shows solidarity and displays unity in its relations with the Russian Federation, and bases those relations on mutual interests and common values,
1. Reaffirms its conviction that Russia remains an important partner for the purpose of building strategic cooperation, one with which the EU shares not only economic and trade interests, but also the objective of cooperating closely in the international arena as well as in the common neighbourhood;
 2. Stresses the importance of unity and solidarity among the EU Member States in their relations with Russia; negotiations on bilateral agreements should be conducted in the spirit of the EU's joint CFSP positions;
 3. Welcomes the outcome of the 20th EU-Russia Summit, which, according to the participants, was conducted in a 'genuinely constructive environment' and a 'friendly atmosphere'; notes the positive dynamics in the ongoing work on the practical implementation of the road maps for the four common spaces and stresses that further deepening of the partnership would be mutually beneficial;
 4. Welcomes the continuous exchange of views on human rights in Russia as part of the EU-Russia human rights consultations; emphasises, however, that the current situation in Russia is giving rise to serious concern in connection with respect for human rights, democracy, freedom of expression, xenophobia, inter-ethnic violence and the rights of civil society and individuals to challenge the authorities and hold them accountable for their actions; is extremely worried about the lack of any substantive response by the Russian authorities to the numerous expressions of this concern; stresses that the implementation of the current NGO law has had a negative impact on the work of many NGOs and supports ongoing initiatives to simplify procedures for registering NGOs;
 5. Calls on the Russian authorities to guarantee a free and fair process for the Duma elections in December 2007 and the presidential elections in March 2008 in order to ensure that the opposition parties have the opportunity to campaign; stresses that freedom of the media will be of key importance if the elections are to be seen as free and fair;
 6. Emphasises its conviction that the forthcoming elections in Russia will be an important test of the implementation of democratic principles and human rights commitments and expects that Russia will make the sensible choice and invite a sufficient number of OSCE observers to monitor the elections;
 7. Regrets the breakdown of the negotiations with the Russian Government on the lifting of Russia's ban on imports of Polish agricultural products and the subsequent failure to

launch negotiations on a new PCA between the EU and Russia; regrets the almost complete lack of positive developments since the previous Summit and urges the Russian Government urgently to reconsider those actions which it has taken and which have prevented further negotiations; encourages the Portuguese Presidency to continue its efforts to enable the negotiating mandate for a new agreement to be adopted as soon as possible and to start negotiations without further delay;

8. Reiterates the importance of setting up the Common Economic Space (CES) and further developing the objectives agreed on in the CES Road Map, especially as regards the creation of an open and integrated market between the EU and Russia;
9. Notes the submission to the Summit of the conclusions of the Industrialists Round Table, conclusions which express 'disappointment' and 'regret' about the slowdown in political relations between the EU and Russia and warn that if politics and business are moving further apart there will be problems with trade and investment;
10. Stresses the importance of improving the climate for European investment in Russia, which can only be achieved by promoting and facilitating non-discriminatory and transparent business conditions, less bureaucracy and two-way investment; is concerned about the lack of predictability in the application of rules by the authorities;
11. Welcomes the strengthening of EU-Russia cooperation in space in the framework of the Tripartite Space Dialogue set up in March 2006 between the European Commission, the European Space Agency and Roscosmos, encompassing space applications (satellite navigation, Earth observation and satellite communications), access to space (launchers and future space transportation systems), space science and space technology development; notes that within the Common Economic Space cooperation in space has been identified as a priority sector;
12. Welcomes the signing at the Summit of an agreement on trade in certain steel products, increasing the quotas for flat steel and long steel products to take into account the enlargement of the EU to include Bulgaria and Romania and to cover deliveries to steel service centres in EU Member States;
13. Welcomes the progress achieved in terms of the implementation of cross-border cooperation programmes based on the principle of co-financing and equal status in the selection of priority projects; welcomes in particular the announcement made by the Russian side at the Summit that it is ready to allocate the necessary funds to these programmes, starting with a first tranche of EUR 122 million;
14. Emphasises that queues of trucks up to 50 km long on the EU side of the border are unacceptable and therefore calls on Russia to streamline its procedures at the borders and to implement the measures agreed with the EU to reduce these bottlenecks;
15. Regrets the fact that Russia did not honour its commitment to phase out the Siberian overflight payments, calls on Russia to sign the agreement reached on this issue at the last Summit and underlines that a positive move by Russia would allow the EU to go ahead with the Aviation Summit planned for Moscow in November to identify the enormous potential for cooperation in this key sector;

16. Welcomes the progress made at the Summit as regards Russia's accession to the WTO, which will create a level playing field for the business communities on both sides and greatly help Russian efforts to build a modern, diversified and high-technology economy; calls on Russia to take the necessary steps to remove the remaining obstacles to the accession process, which is at a critical stage, and to be able to comply in full with and implement WTO membership commitments and obligations;
17. Welcomes the intensified EU-Russia dialogue on energy issues; underlines the importance of energy imports for European economies, representing as they do a potential opportunity for further trade and economic cooperation between the EU and Russia; stresses that the principles of interdependence and transparency should be the basis of such cooperation, together with equal access to markets, strategic independence, infrastructure and investment; notes with concern that the destruction of Yukos, the political persecution of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who has been incarcerated for four years and should now be eligible for parole, and the recent pressure exerted on Russneft is creating serious uncertainty in the business community; calls on the Council and the Commission to ensure that the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty, the Transit Protocol annexed thereto and the G8 conclusions are incorporated in a new PCA between the EU and Russia;
18. Emphasises the need to further strengthen EU energy security and therefore welcomes the agreement reached at the Summit to continue work on the establishment of an early-warning mechanism for supply and demand of energy coming from Russia to the EU based on the exchange of information on potential crises and ways of solving them;
19. Emphasises the need to work together with Russia as a necessary and important partner to ensure peace, stability and security, to combat international terrorism and violent extremism, and to address other security issues, such as environmental and nuclear hazards, drugs, trafficking in arms and human beings and cross-border organised crime in the European neighbourhood;
20. Calls on the Commission and Council to pursue joint initiatives with the Russian Government aimed at strengthening security and stability in the common neighbourhood, in particular by means of enhanced dialogue over Ukraine and Belarus and joint efforts to finally resolve the frozen conflicts in Nagorno Karabakh and in Moldova and Georgia by guaranteeing the full territorial integrity of those states and, as far as Transnistria is concerned, by withdrawing the remaining Russian troops; if necessary, those troops should be replaced by a force of international monitors;
21. Calls on the Russian Government to make a positive contribution to the efforts made by the Contact Group and the European Union to find a sustainable solution to the problem of the future status of Kosovo which can be accepted by all parties involved in the conflict;
22. Calls on the EU and on Russia, as a member of the UN Security Council, to continue their efforts to find a solution to the Iranian nuclear issue;
23. Calls on the EU and Russia, as members of the Quartet, to assume their responsibility for resolving the Middle East conflict and to promote efforts to hold an international conference on a Middle East peace settlement;

24. Appeals to the governments of Russia and the United States to intensify the discussions on defence and security issues directly or indirectly involving the Member States of the European Union; urges the governments of both states to fully involve the European Union and its Member States in these discussions and to refrain from any steps and decisions which might be considered a threat to peace and stability on the European continent; urges Russia to reconsider plans to suspend compliance with the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) and to choose the path of negotiations in order to protect its legitimate interests and avoid an erosion of the CFE Treaty, which could lead to a new arms race and new lines of confrontation;
25. Welcomes the entry into force in the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements and underlines the importance of their full implementation; in this regard, welcomes also the recent start of the visa dialogue;
26. Stresses the importance of the continued fight against corruption; welcomes the participation of the Russian Federation in the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption as well as the strong commitment of President Putin and Prime Minister Zubkov to this issue, but underlines that international conventions, national legislation and codes of conduct are not sufficient if they are not followed by effective implementation;
27. Welcomes the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Russia's Federal Drug Control Service and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction calling for the strengthening of EU-Russia cooperation in all areas of anti-drug activities, from medical aid for drug addicts to working on preventive measures with the media and public organisations;
28. Takes note of the progress achieved in the Common Space of Research, Education and Culture, and welcomes in particular the holding of the first Permanent Partnership Council on Culture on the eve of the Summit, which identified areas for a future Joint Action Plan, signalling a strong commitment by both sides to take cultural cooperation to a new level;
29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Russian Federation, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.