

EU-RUSSIA PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

SIXTH MEETING

24 – 25 September 2003

STRASBOURG

Joint Statement

25 September 2003
EUR/SP/cs

EU – Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

Sixth Meeting

Strasbourg, 24 and 25 September 2003

Co-Chairmen: Mr Bart STAES and Mr Vladimir P. LUKIN

Joint Statement

pursuant to Article 89 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

The EU–Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) held its 6th meeting in Strasbourg on 24 and 25 September 2003 and discussed the state of and prospects for EU-Russia Co-operation within the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA).

Mr Bart STAES (EP delegation) and Mr Vladimir LUKIN (Russian delegation) chaired the meeting. The meeting was addressed by H.E. Mr Michail FRADKOV, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the EU and Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation, Senator Roberto ANTONIONE, Undersecretary of State, representing the Italian Presidency-in-Office of the Council of the European Union and Mr Michael LEIGH, Deputy Director General for External Relations, representing the European Commission.

In the course of the meeting the following issues were addressed

- current political and economical developments in the Russian Federation and in the EU;
- the EU-Russia Summit on 6 November 2003 in Rome;
- the results of the EU-Russia Summit in May 2003 in St Petersburg -and in particular the policy of common spaces for joint actions in the fields of economics and trade, of home affairs and justice, of education and cultural policy and in the field of security and defence;
- the further enhancement of the PCA in its objectives and instruments as well as the adaptation of the PCA to the enlargement of the Union;
- the EU Convention proposal for a constitution for the European Union;
- the ratification of the Kyoto-Protocol by the Russian Federation;
- the implementation of the Facilitated Transit Regime between the Kaliningrad region and the rest of the Russian Federation.

The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

took note of the results of the results of the 11th EU-Russia summit of 30-31 May 2003 in St. Petersburg and their implementation. It discussed the "Common Spaces" that had been agreed upon in St. Petersburg, in particular in the economic field, in the field of education, home affairs and security, and underlines the necessity to strengthen further the cooperation between the EU and the Russian Federation within the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement,

which needs to be extended formally and in its applications to the new Member States of the European Union.

The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee also discussed security policy issues, and in particular the fighting of international terrorism, issues related to non-proliferation.

With relation to the Kaliningrad Region as an exclave of the Russian Federation surrounded by future EU member states, Mr Elmar BROK, President of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, informed the Committee of the successful implementation of the Facilitated Transit Regime for Russian citizens. The Committee raised further policy proposals and projects of the Russian Federal Government in order to strengthen the economic and social situation of this particular region, and was informed by the European Commission of the European Union activities also aiming at this same objective.

In view of the coming EU-Russia summit in Rome, the Committee having welcomed the institutional strengthening of the PCA instruments at the St Petersburg summit, underlined the necessity of the pending ratification of the Agreements extension early Russia joining WTA and new efforts to make the process of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol possible.

In an exchange with Mr. Giorgio NAPOLITANO, President of the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs, the Committee finally discussed the draft Constitution for the European Union, as of actuality for the European Parliament's September part session.