

## **Joint Committee Meeting with the Federal Assembly's International Affairs Committees on 21 December 2005 in Moscow**

### RESUMÉ

Participants:

Mr Elmar BROK, Chairman of the EP Foreign Affairs Committee

Mr Toomas ILVES, Deputy Chairman of EP Foreign Affairs Committee

Mr Sefan PFITZNER, Delegation Secretariat

excused: Mr Camiel EURLING, Co-Chairman of the EU-Russia PCC

**"Back on track with strategic partnership"** - that is how the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Grushko, resumed the state of art of EU-Russia relations.

The regular meetings at the level of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee meetings and its Working Groups and the Federal Government's recent meetings in Brussels (6 December 2005) with the European Commission have created a network of relations which is functioning and gaining importance in competition to the bilateral links Russia is strongly advocating with certain Member States.

The focus of interest throughout the different meetings was on

- progress in the four common spaces
- Estonia and Latvia border agreements
- the situation of Russians in the Kaliningrad region
- the Russian speaking population of Latvia
- the future of relations after the expiration of the PCA in 2007.

The EP delegation added to this traditional bundle of topics some of more current importance:

- Russian sales of anti-aircraft missiles to Iran
- Russian vote in the UN Security Council on Iran
- the Baltic Sea gas pipeline
- the frozen conflicts (Abkhazia, Ossetia, Transnistria)
- the situation of "in-between"-countries, such as Ukraine
- political events in Belarus
- the NGO bill
- security cooperation EU-Russia.

Having discussed the above mentioned topics, it was agreed that Mr Tulalev would forward on Mr Brok's request, a proposal for practical measures in favour of the Kaliningrad region to be discussed at a meeting to be organised in Brussels following the upcoming PCC meeting. On this occasion, Governor Boos should be invited to attend.

Mrs Svetlana Shirnova raised the issue of the EP resolution on the situation of the Mari and Finno-Ugursk minorities, and repeated the invitation to MEPs to attend meetings with their representatives in the region.

In conclusion, after several exchanges of views, a practical proposal was agreed to work towards a simple ratification of the Estonia-RF border agreement by simple vote without any additions, to come into force as soon as the respective Parliaments had adopted it.

Mr Kosachev proposed that an EP resolution should address Estonia, Latvia and the RF, inviting them to ratify the Border agreements, including only technical annexes, without the addition of further resolutions.

During the press conference of Mr Brok, Mr Ilves, Mr Kosachev and Mr Magelov at the State Duma, the NGO bill was adopted in second reading in the Plenary.

EC representatives were satisfied with the modifications obtained.

Meetings:

- Ministry for Foreign Affairs: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs D. Grushko with Mr Dimitri Polyanskiy
- Ministry of Defence: General Major Nikishin (Responsible for International Treaties)
- Presidential Administration: Mr Sergei Yastrzhembskiy

International Affairs Committee of State Duma and Federation Council, and CIS Committee of State Duma

Participants:

Mr KOSACHEV, State Duma International Affairs Committee, Chair  
 Mr MAGELOV, Federation Council International Affairs Committee, Chair  
 Mr KVITSINSKI, Federation Council International Affairs Committee, Deputy Chair  
 Mr SLOUTSKI, State Duma International Affairs Committee, Deputy Chair  
 Mr KLIMOV, CIS Subcommittee, State Duma, Chair  
 Mrs SHIRNOVA, State Duma (MARI and Finno-Ugursk minorities)  
 Mr KOROBEINIKOV, Federation Council  
 Mr TULAYEV, Federation Council (Kaliningrad Region)

Stefan PFITZNER  
 22.12.05/cs

Annex: final programme

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**FINAL PROGRAMME**

for the Chairman of the EP Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr Elmar BROK  
and Mr Toomas ILVES, Deputy Chairman of EP Foreign Affairs Committee

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**Tuesday, 20 December**

15.35 Departure from Brussels by flight LH 4597  
Frankfurt arrival 16.35  
Frankfurt departure 17.45 by flight LH 3188  
Moscow SVO arrival 22.45  
Check into Hotel "National"  
(Mokhovaja St., 15/1., tel. 258 70 00)

**Wednesday, 21 December**

09.00 Breakfast meeting with the Head of Commission Delegation, Mr  
Marc Franco  
10.00 Transfer to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
11.00-12.20 Meeting with Mr Grushko, Deputy Foreign Minister  
12.20 Transfer to the Ministry of Defence  
13.00-14.00 Meeting at the Ministry of Defence with acting Chief of the  
International Treaty Directorate, Mr Vladimir Nikishin  
14.00 Transfer to the Duma  
14.00-15.30 Working lunch in the Duma with Mr Kosachev and Mr Margelov  
15.30-17.00 Joint Meeting between Mr Kosachev, Mr Margelov and the EP  
Delegation/Chairs of International Affairs Committees at the  
State Duma  
17.00 Press Conference at the State Duma with Mr Kosachev,  
Mr Margelov and the EP Delegation  
17.30 Transfer to the Presidential Administration  
18.00-19.00 Meeting with Presidential Aide, Mr Sergey Yastrzhembsky  
19.00 Press conference, Commission Delegation office  
20.00 Dinner, Residence of HoD Franco

**Thursday, 22 December**

09.00 Excursion to Sergei Posad Cloisters  
pm individual departures