Resolution on the preparations for the EU-Russia Summit in Stockholm on 18 November 2009

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The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the preparations for the EU-Russia Summit in Stockholm on 18 November 2009.

The resolution had been tabled by the ALDE, EPP, S&D, Greens/ALE, and ECR groups.

It reaffirms its belief that Russia remains one of the EU's most important partners in building sustainable cooperation, sharing not only economic and trade interests but also the objective of acting closely together on the basis of international law. Parliament reiterates its strong support for a new agreement going beyond purely economic cooperation and also encompassing the areas of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human and fundamental rights.

Members repeat their support for **Russia's accession to the WTO**, and call on Russia to take the necessary steps to remove the remaining obstacles to the accession process, namely Russian export duties, the level of railway fees for goods in transit through Russia, road charges on goods vehicles and the restrictions on imports of meat, milk and plant products, following which the EU should open discussions on a free-trade agreement with the Russian Federation. Parliament deplores the fact that Russia is still not honouring its commitment to phase out Siberian overflight payments and calls on Russia to sign the agreement reached on this issue at the summit in Samara in 2007.

On **energy,** Parliament states that it looks forward to the signing between the EU and Russia of an agreement on the establishment of an early-warning mechanism on energy security covering notification, consultation and implementation, and it calls on the Swedish Presidency and on the Commission to work with the Russian authorities, Gazprom, the Ukrainian authorities and Naftohaz Ukrainy in order to avoid any repetition of the supply shut-offs that have occurred in recent years. It underlines the **mutual importance of energy cooperation** for Russia and the EU, and stresses that the principles of interdependence and transparency should form the basis of such cooperation, together with equal access to markets, infrastructure and investment. Members want to use the Summit to point out clearly to the Russian side the increased internal energy solidarity measures the EU is taking and the mutually negative consequences which energy-supply problems might create. They note that the recent decision by Russia to withdraw its signature from the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) further complicates relations in the area of energy security and it calls for the principles of the ECT and the Transit Protocol annexed thereto to be included in the new PCA between the EU and Russia.

On **climate change**, Parliament feels that all the industrialised countries need to adopt targets that require ambitious reductions from current emissions levels and calls on Russia to reconsider its request for a growing emissions target, in keeping with its large mitigation potential and the IPCC recommendations, with a view to facilitating a swift agreement in Copenhagen. It stresses the need for Russia to lend its full support to binding post-Kyoto climate-change targets.

Parliament goes on to insist that the **safeguarding of human rights** should be a key item on the agenda for the EU-Russia Summit and an integral part of the new EU-Russia cooperation agreement. It reiterates its call to ensure that the murderers of Natalia Estemirova, Andrei Kulagin, Zarema Sadulayeva, Alik Dzhabrailov, Maksharip Aushev, Stanislav Markelov, Anastasiya Baburova and Anna Politkovskaya are brought to justice. Parliament also condemns the brutal assassination of Maksharip Aushev, a popular human rights activist who was shot dead in Ingushetia. It calls on the Russian authorities to adopt

preventive protective measures as regards human rights defenders. The Council and Commission are urged to pay the utmost attention to the ongoing second trial of former Yukos Oil chief Mikhail Khodorkovsky, which is already replete with severe due process violations. Members call on the Russian authorities to combat arbitrariness, to respect the rule of law and not to use the judiciary as a political tool.

Parliament wants to use the Summit to express the EU's concern on a **range of international issues** where Russia's constructive cooperation is crucial, and on the need for increased cooperation in dealing with Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and other crucial issues on the international agenda. There must be a peaceful settlement under international law of the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and Transnistria and, above all, that between Russia and Georgia and its breakaway regions South Ossetia and Abkhazia. In this context, Parliament points out that that the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) has a country-wide mandate and calls for it to be granted unhindered access to Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which it has so far been denied. It goes on to state that it is very concerned about the ramifications for international security following the Duma's adoption of amendments to the law 'On Defence' submitted by the President of Russia, which state that Russia can use military force in operations outside its borders for the purposes of, inter alia, countering an attack against Russian forces deployed beyond Russia's borders, or to protect Russian citizens abroad, the latter being particularly controversial when Russia is pursuing a policy of illegally issuing passports in frozen conflict territories and in Ukraine's Crimea.

Lastly, Parliament calls on the Presidency to express the EU's support for the talks between Russia and the US on a new agreement to succeed **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)** and for the initiatives aimed at building a joint missile defence system between the US, Russia and NATO, and it urges both the US and Russia to involve fully the EU and its Member States in the discussions concerning developments on the missile defence shield.