EC/Georgia agreement: partnership and cooperation agreement

1994/2181(INI) - 13/03/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Peter KITTELMANN (PPE, D) on the economic and commercial aspects of the partnership and cooperation agreement between the EU and Georgia. Convinced of the urgent need for the EU to step up its presence in the Transcaucasus region and to contribute to the economic development of Georgia, the European Parliament noted that the agreement, which was based on the respect of human rights and democracy, should help this country stabilise its political situation and apply these basic principles in a more effective manner. In this respect Parliament referred to its resolution of 14 November 1996 on the situation in Abkhazia and reaffirmed that the solution to this conflict could only be based on respect for human rights and the rights of minorities, as well as on the preservation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the region. The cooperation agreement should in any case guarantee respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. Precisely with regard to the situation in Abkhazia, Parliament called on the Commission to draw up a plan for humanitarian aid in conjunction with TACIS and ECHO, so as to assist those local communities which were in distress. At the same time, Parliament noted the strategic importance of the Transcaucasian region in terms of energy resources and underlined the importance of applying equitable transit conditions for the export of energy products. It emphasized the need for cooperation on investments in this sector (in particular for the construction and repair of oil and gas pipelines). Parliament also noted that the agreement would help create a positive climate for the development of exchanges and investment between the EU and Georgia and that it would constitute one of the main elements for establishing good relations, creating confidence and setting in motion a successful process of regional cooperation with the Transcaucasian States. At the same time Parliament called on the Commission to work with the authorities of the region to identify areas likely to benefit from development programmes in the transport and telecommunications sectors which would promote regional cooperation. Finally, Parliament called for actions to be provided within the scope of the partnership agreement in order to support the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan and for a special package of aid for the macro-economic stabilisation of this country to be granted in cooperation with the international financial institutions.