

EC/Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

1994/0151(AVC) - 30/10/1997

OBJECTIVE: conclusion of a partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Communities and their Member States and Russia. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council and Commission Decision 97/800/ECSC, EC, Euratom on the conclusion of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part. **SUBSTANCE:** This is a mixed agreement covering areas of responsibility both of the Community and of the Member States. - **Duration of the Agreement:** it has been concluded for an initial period of 10 years and will be automatically renewed year by year, provided there is no objection by either side. - **Democracy clause:** the Agreement is based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, and on the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. - **Most-favoured-nation clause:** the Agreement makes provision for most-favoured-nation treatment, though not for the first five years in relation to a certain number of advantages specified in the Agreement (this transitional period may be extended by mutual consent). - **The Agreement establishes a political dialogue between the parties, relating primarily to the strengthening of economic and political ties between the European Union and Russia and to international issues.** - **Areas of cooperation:** The Agreement makes provision for the future establishing of a free-trade area (in 1998 the parties will examine whether circumstances allow the beginning of negotiations for this purpose) and consolidates cooperation in the following fields: trade in goods (including nuclear materials, with provision for future arrangements in this field); conditions for the employment of nationals of both parties; establishment and operation of companies; cross-border supply of services; payments and capital; competition; protection of intellectual, industrial and commercial property; legislative cooperation; economic and industrial cooperation (development of business links, investment promotion and protection, public procurement); cultural cooperation; cooperation in science and technology, energy, transport, telecommunications, etc.; cooperation in the field of education and training; cooperation on the environment; cooperation in the field of justice and internal affairs (drugs, money laundering, illegal activities, corruption); financial cooperation, in the form of non-refundable assistance under the TACIS programme. - **The Agreement lays down the institutional framework for its implementation, providing - as part of the political dialogue - for annual meetings at the highest level (EU-Russia Summit), meetings at ministerial level (Cooperation Council), meetings of senior officials (Cooperation Committee) and meetings at parliamentary level (Parliamentary Cooperation Committee bringing together the European Parliament and the Duma).** **ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT:** the Agreement signed by the parties on 24 June 1994 enters into force on 1 December 1997.