Resolution on the EU-Russia summit of 28 May 2002

2002/2548(RSP) - 15/05/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

In its resolution on the EU-Russia summit of 28 May, the European Parliament recognises the importance of Russia for the achievement of security over the whole of Europe and bordering regions. Enlargement will extend the EU's border with Russia and the region of Kaliningrad will become a Russian enclave in EU territory. The Council must seek with Russia an understanding on all issues of common interest, including energy, economic development, crime, transport and fisheries. Parliament reaffirms the importance it attaches to the creation of a Common European Economic Area and feels that both sides need to make better use of the conciliation procedures of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement to speed up the dismantling of trade barriers. The increasing deterioration of the environmental situation in Russia is regrettable, as is the absence of an environment ministry in the new government and the adoption of laws that are not environmentally friendly, such as the one on the importing of spent nuclear fuel. Russia must be urged to ratify and implement the Kyoto Protocol. Parliament also attaches great importance to strengthening long-term energy relations and feels that an energy partnership between the EU and Russia should be an integral part of the Common European Economic area. Russia is an outstanding partner in this regard - a close and reliable source of energy products. Parliament went on to express its concerns about the situation of the media in Russia and the case of Gregory Pasko. With regard to the conflict in Chechnya, an immediate political solution must be found. Members deplored the fact that new rules regulating the conduct of troops during cleansing operations in Chechnya have not succeeded in preventing human rights violations by Russian forces. Negotiations must be resumed with all parties and the EU is available to act as mediator. Furthermore, whilst the security needs of Russia are recognised, the sovereignty of Georgia and Azerbaijan should be respected. Finally, Russia is urged to facilitate a positive solution in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorny-Karabakh. The Council should develop a common strategy for that region.