

Resolution on the outcome of the European Union-Russia Summit held in Sochi on 25 May 2006

2006/2584(RSP) - 15/06/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

In adopting a resolution on EU-Russia Summit held in Sochi on 25 May 2006, MEPs regretted that the summit failed to secure an agreement on energy and stress as a basis for further negotiations the principle of interdependence and transparency as well as the importance of reciprocity in terms of access to markets, infrastructure and investment, with the objective of avoiding oligopolistic market structures and diversifying the European Union's energy supply.

Parliament called on Russia to ratify the Energy Charter Treaty and to increase cooperation on energy savings and renewable energy. MEPs stressed the importance of a strengthened partnership between the European Union and the Russian Federation based on interdependence and shared interests in the development of all four common spaces, but took the view that the present partnership with Russia was more pragmatic than strategic since it reflected in the first place common economic interests without achieving major results as regards human rights and the rule of law.

Parliament urged the Commission to investigate existing cases of discrimination in trade in agricultural products by the Russian authorities against EU Member States such as Poland, but also against states in the common neighbourhood such as Moldova and Georgia. It also urged the Commission to give a full explanation in a timely and transparent way of its policy regarding Russia's accession to the WTO, taking into account all negotiated areas and sectors. Parliament regretted that as regards the Common Space of External Security, no progress was made on conflict resolution in Transnistria and South Caucasus, with no real improvement in Chechnya and no willingness by the Russian side to engage with Belarus so as to start a genuine process of democratisation in that country.

Human Rights Dialogue: Parliament recognised the importance of the various dialogues established to improve the functioning of EU-Russian cooperation and partnership and underlined the need for an effective Human Rights Dialogue. It called on the Russian Government to contribute to the intensification of the EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations as an essential part of the EU-Russia partnership and to allow the free functioning of domestic and international human rights organisations and other non-governmental organisations.

Parliament urged the Russian Federation, as a member of the Council of Europe, to improve conditions for prisoners and put an end to the difficulties faced by lawyers in seeking to gain access to some of those prisoners.

Finally, it called on the Russian Government to honour its responsibility as President of the G8 and as Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to achieve tangible results in the further development of transparent trade and reliable economic relations and in the establishment of stability, security, democracy and respect for human rights.