

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2014/2016(INI)	Procedure completed
Recommendation to the Council on establishing common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case		
Subject 6.40.04.02 Relations with Russian Federation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	ALDE OJULAND Kristiina	27/01/2014

Key events			
16/10/2013	Non-legislative basic document published	B7-0473/2013	
27/02/2014	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/2014	Vote in committee		
21/03/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0215/2014	Summary
02/04/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/04/2014	Decision by Parliament	T7-0258/2014	Summary
02/04/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2014/2016(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 134o-p3
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/7/15148

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		B7-0473/2013	16/10/2013	EP	

Committee draft report	PE528.148	05/02/2014	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE529.863	27/02/2014	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A7-0215/2014	21/03/2014	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T7-0258/2014	02/04/2014	EP	Summary

Recommendation to the Council on establishing common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the own-initiative report by Kristiina OJULAND (ADLE, EE) with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on establishing common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case.

Sergei Magnitsky affair: Members considered that the arrest and subsequent death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky represented a well-documented and significant case of disrespect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Russia, and had cast doubt on the independence and impartiality of its judicial institutions, and served as a reminder of the many documented shortcomings in respect for the rule of law in that country. Members recalled that two independent investigations, conducted respectively by the Public Oversight Commission for Human Rights Observance in Moscow Detention Centres and by the Russian Presidential Council on the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, had revealed that Sergei Magnitsky had been subjected to inhumane conditions, deliberate neglect and torture.

Members further recalled that Russia, as a member of several international organisations such as the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations, had committed itself to the protection and promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and the European Union has repeatedly offered additional assistance and expertise to help Russia to modernize.

A firmer policy towards Russia: the report stated that there was an increasing need for a firm, coherent and comprehensive EU policy towards Russia, supported by all the Member States, with support and assistance backed up by firm and fair criticism, including sanctions and restrictive measures where necessary. Visa restrictions and other restrictive measures were not traditional judicial sanctions per se but nevertheless constitute a political signal of the EUs concern to a greater target audience and thus remained a necessary and legitimate foreign-policy tool;

Recommendations to Council: recalling that the High Representative had failed to place this issue on the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Council and the recommendation by the European Parliament of 26 October 2012 had not received any official follow-up, Members called on Parliament to address the following recommendations to Council to:

- establish a common EU list of officials responsible for the death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the subsequent judicial cover-up and for the ongoing and continuing harassment of his mother and widow;
- impose and implement an EU-wide visa ban on these officials and to freeze any financial assets that they, or their immediate family, may hold within the European Union;
- allow for regular revision of the proposed visa ban list;
- following the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012, place, among others, the Russian citizens concerned on an EU-wide visa ban list and to seize any financial assets that they may hold within the EU (a list of names was set out in the report);
- urge Russia to undertake a credible, thorough and independent investigation of Sergei Magnitsky's death in pre-trial detention, and to bring all those responsible to justice;
- call on Russia to close the posthumous trial of Sergei Magnitsky and stop putting pressure on his mother and widow to participate in these proceedings.

Recommendation to the Council on establishing common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case

The European Parliament adopted without a vote, in accordance with Article 97(4) of Parliaments Rules of Procedure, a resolution containing recommendation to the Council on establishing common visa restrictions for Russian officials involved in the Sergei Magnitsky case.

Sergei Magnitsky affair: Parliament considered that the arrest and subsequent death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky represented a well-documented and significant case of disrespect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Russia, and had cast doubt on the independence and impartiality of its judicial institutions, and served as a reminder of the many documented shortcomings in respect for the rule of law in that country. It recalled that two independent investigations, conducted respectively by the Public Oversight Commission for Human Rights Observance in Moscow Detention Centres and by the Russian Presidential Council on the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights, had revealed that Sergei Magnitsky had been subjected to inhumane conditions, deliberate neglect and torture.

Members further recalled that Russia, as a member of several international organisations such as the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations, had committed itself to the protection and promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, and the European Union had repeatedly offered additional assistance and expertise to help Russia to modernize.

A firmer policy towards Russia: Parliament stated that there was an increasing need for a firm, coherent and comprehensive EU policy towards Russia, supported by all the Member States, with support and assistance backed up by firm and fair criticism, including sanctions and restrictive measures where necessary. Visa restrictions and other restrictive measures were not traditional judicial sanctions per se but nevertheless constitute a political signal of the EUs concern to a greater target audience and thus remained a necessary and legitimate foreign-policy tool;

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