

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1995/2119(COS)	Procedure completed
The European Union and Russia: the future relationship		
Subject 6.40.04.02 Relations with Russian Federation		
Geographical area Russian Federation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		22/06/1995
		ARE LALUMIÈRE Catherine	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		19/07/1995
		GUE/NGL STENIUS-KAUKONEN Marjatta	
	RELA External Economic Relations		20/07/1995
		PPE KITTELMANN Peter	
	REGI Regional Policy		13/11/1995
		PPE SCHIEDERMEIER Edgar Josef	
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		02/06/1995
		PSE MARINHO Luís	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2047	24/11/1997
	General Affairs	2041	10/11/1997
	General Affairs	1996	24/03/1997
	General Affairs	1943	16/07/1996
	General Affairs	1922	13/05/1996
	General Affairs	1883	21/11/1995
	General Affairs	1871	02/10/1995
	General Affairs	1864	17/07/1995

Key events		
	Non-legislative basic document published	Summary

31/05/1995		COM(1995)0223	
16/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/07/1995	Debate in Council	1864	
02/10/1995	Debate in Council	1871	
21/11/1995	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
13/05/1996	Debate in Council	1922	
16/07/1996	Debate in Council	1943	
24/03/1997	Debate in Council	1996	Summary
10/11/1997	Debate in Council	2041	
24/11/1997	Debate in Council	2047	
04/02/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
04/02/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0060/1998	
01/04/1998	Debate in Parliament		
02/04/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0207/1998	Summary
02/04/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/05/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2119(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/06722

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0223	31/05/1995	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	06440/1996	26/04/1996	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0060/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0004	04/02/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0207/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0139-0166	02/04/1998	EP	Summary

The European Union and Russia: the future relationship

OBJECTIVE: this communication sets out the strategy behind the future relationship between the EU and Russia, which will be geared to the following objectives: . stronger political and economic stability; . sustainable development, resulting in improved living conditions for the people;

. stronger cooperation on regional and international questions. CONTENT: according to this communication, relations between the EU and Russia have never been fully exploited, especially given its proximity to the Union now that Finland is a member. The main cause of this relative failing is the slow process of political and economic transformation since the break up of the Soviet Union and, closer to home, events in connection with the war in Chechnya. The Commission therefore proposes that relations be strengthened on the basis of the following priorities: . Russia should be involved in the implementation of a European security structure; . democratic rules and institutions should be created; . economic reform should continue, focusing on the integration of Russia in an enlarged European Economic Area; . cooperation should be stepped up (including justice/home affairs, crime, crisis prevention); . an open dialogue should be instituted on all subjects of common interest (including security). In this context, the Commission proposes a series of initiatives, the most important of which are as follows: - security: in-depth discussion on the implementation of the future security structure in Europe within NATO; greater cooperation in the fight against illegal trafficking in fissile materials etc.; - political relations: in addition to implementing the EU/Russia partnership and cooperation agreement (not before 1997), the EU should approve the interim trade agreement. It must also continue to promote the restoration of democracy through TACIS democracy (especially in the context of legislative and presidential elections). Finally, efforts must be made so that Russia can join the Council of Europe (once the Chechnya conflict has been resolved); - economic relations: numerous points are still causing problems (especially the increase in Russian customs duty on certain goods, whether or not the most favoured nation clause will apply to mobile satellite services from 1996 onwards, the gradual opening of inland waterways to international inland waterway and maritime traffic at the end of 1996, the signature of an agreement on the trade in fissile materials by 1997). Nonetheless, a market economy has been introduced relatively quickly and efficiently (privatization) even if problems persist with social support and the reform of the financial markets. In the food and farming chain, food distribution has also improved but the restructuring of collective farms has hardly begun. Finally, priority also needs to be given to the education and research system. At the regional level, TACIS infrastructure and trans-European network projects need to be implemented (mainly in the Baltic zone), as do cross-border projects (ECOS-TACIS); - other forms of cooperation: these relate mainly to the environment and nuclear safety, information technologies and telecommunications and the development of human resources, transport and science, with priority being given to telecommunications and trans-European networks. The energy sector is also seen as a top priority in order to guarantee the rational and fair exploitation of resources.?

The European Union and Russia: the future relationship

The Council welcomed the successful EU-Russian Federation summit held in Moscow on 3 March 1997. The Council recalled that the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement provides a wide range of possibilities for strengthening political and economic relations. The entry into force of this agreement, which is expected to take place later in 1997, will give new quality to the relations between the EU and Russia. In order to take account of the discussions at the summit, the Council instructed COREPER to ensure that all necessary actions will be taken in cooperation with the Russian authorities to provide for the effective functioning of the agreement as from its entry into force. In particular, consideration will be given to the necessary measures to establish the institutions foreseen by the agreement. The Council underlines the potential for cooperation provided for by the PCA. ?

The European Union and Russia: the future relationship

The report on the future relationship between the European Union and Russia (rapporteur: Catherine LALUMIERE (ERA, F), was adopted unopposed, with one abstention, by the Committee. The rapporteur argues that the security of the European peoples forms an indivisible whole and that this security depends to a very large extent on relations between the European Union and Russia. There is a need, she believes, for all the possibilities offered by the Founding Act between Russia and NATO to be exploited at the outset. Cooperation must be effective in all areas, including the military sphere, as one cannot imagine Europe enjoying security without Russia. The threatening scenario of the past has been replaced by a situation in which Russia can become Europe's security partner, although Russia should review its position on the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines. The report goes on to say that the EU should support the economic and political reform process in Russia and also promote exchanges between people in leading roles in politics, administration, economic life and social affairs as well as helping the development of civil society in Russia. Greater cooperation with the Russian authorities is needed on matters covered by the 3rd pillar (justice and home affairs), so as to strengthen the fight against crime. The committee also calls upon Russia to follow up its moratorium on the death penalty, which has been in place since August 1996, by abolishing capital punishment completely. In addition, says the report, the EU's TACIS programme should in the next few years focus on the following areas: carrying out projects in the areas of health, education, safety and housing; setting up a legal framework within which the rule of law can operate and which accords people and businesses greater legal certainty and confidence in the courts; and implementing a just and effective tax system. The committee also calls for joint Euro-Russian industrial projects to be devised, starting with hi-tech industries (e.g. biology, computers, space, aeronautics, energy, telecommunications), so as to make Russia a fully-fledged partner in these industries of the future.?

The European Union and Russia: the future relationship

Adopting the report by Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE (ARE, F) on relations between the EU and Russia, Parliament points out that Russia has an integral place in the history and culture of Europe. The EU's strategy towards Russia should therefore be one of its priorities for future action, concentrating on consolidating Russian society, developing partnership, strengthening security on the basis of balanced cooperation and opening up European markets to Russian products. 1) Consolidating Russian society: the EU should give its full support to the process of political and economic reform in Russia so as to reduce the negative phenomena (corruption, mafia practices, etc.) which have accompanied the transition. Exchanges must be encouraged between people in leading roles in politics, administration, economic life and social affairs and assistance given to developing civil society. Cooperation must be developed with the Russian authorities on matters falling within the scope of the third pillar (justice and internal affairs: all kinds of trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering, etc.) in order to fight crime more effectively. Russia is also called upon to ratify the additional Protocol 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning abolition of the death penalty and to make official the moratorium on capital punishment which entered into force in August 1996. Parliament also calls on Russia to bring federal Russian laws into line with recognized international standards with regard to human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. With regard to the TACIS programme in the next few years, the EU should accord an important place to: - carrying out projects in the area of education, safety and housing; - setting up and implementing a legal framework within which the rule of law can operate and which accords people and businesses greater legal certainty; - implementing a just and effective tax system; - strengthening media

diversity. 2) Developing a partnership: Parliament calls for Euro-Russian projects to be developed in the industrial field, starting with the high technology sector (biology, computers, space, aeronautics, energy and telecommunications) so as to make Russia a fully-fledged partner in these frontier technology sectors. It calls on the Commission to coordinate its activities with the Russian Government to prevent illegal trafficking in fissile material and to improve the safety of Russian nuclear installations and possibly to close the particularly dangerous reactors. It calls on the Commission to intensify its efforts under the TACIS programme to diversify energy sources in the Russian Federation with the emphasis on promoting renewable energies and combating energy waste. It also calls for the Russian Parliament to ratify the European Energy Charter Treaty. It supports Russia's bid to join the WTO. It calls on the Member States to recognize Russia's cultural heritage through cultural cooperation programmes and joint cultural events and twinning arrangements between towns and regions. 3) Strengthening security: Parliament considers that the security of European peoples forms an indivisible whole and that this security depends to a very large extent on relations between the EU and Russia. At the outset, all the possibilities provided by the founding act on mutual relations between NATO and the Russian Federation must be used to help create a more stable, peaceful and undivided Europe, whereby the inviolability of existing borders, human rights and the rights of minorities are respected. The EU, WEU, NATO and the Russian Federation must then continue to develop close links between their parliamentary bodies, political leaders and military high commands and continue to cooperate in peace-keeping operations. Parliament hopes that the EU itself will develop security relations with Russia. It considers that, over and above security issues, there is a need to map out a new order for cooperation on a continental European scale following the events since 1989 and in connection with the EU's forthcoming enlargement to include the CEECs. This new structure must ensure that relations between the main political and economic actors on the international stage are as balanced as possible. Parliament stresses that reinforced partnership with Russia requires a concomitant reinforcement of the EU's common foreign and security policy. It calls for resolute cooperation with Russia in the context of the Council of Baltic Sea States and the Euro-Arctic, Barents Sea and Arctic Councils. ?