

Tuesday 4 May 1999

## PART II

## Texts adopted by the European Parliament

## 1. Northern Dimension for the Union (Rule 52)

A4-0209/99

**Resolution on the Communication from the Commission — A Northern Dimension for the policies of the Union (COM(98)0589 — C4-0067/99)***The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission communication (COM(98)0589 — C4-0067/99),
  - having regard to its resolution of 12 June 1997 on the Commission communication on the Baltic Sea Region Initiative (SEC(96)0608 — C4-0362/96) <sup>(1)</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 2 April 1998 on the Commission communication on the future of relations between the European Union and Russia and the action plan on the European Union and Russia: the future relationship (COM(95)0223 — C4-0217/95 — 6440/96 — C4-0415/96 <sup>(2)</sup>),
  - having regard to its resolution of 9 March 1999 on a new strategy for agriculture in Arctic areas <sup>(3)</sup>,
  - having regard to the new provisions on coherent external action by the Union in the Amsterdam Treaty,
  - having regard to the Presidency conclusions from the European Councils in Luxembourg in 1997 and Cardiff and Vienna in 1998,
  - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 12-13 June 1996 on the Northern Dimension of the European Union and Cross-Border Cooperation between the European Union and the Russian Federation and in the Barents Region <sup>(4)</sup>,
  - having delegated the power of decision, pursuant to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy and the opinions of the Committee on Regional Policy and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A4-0209/99),
- A. whereas there are sectors of significant unexploited potential in northern Europe located in areas bordering the European Union,
- B. whereas the northern part of Europe has certain specific characteristics including partly, except for metropolitan and other urban and surrounding areas, very low population density,
- C. whereas it should be noted that the Northern Dimension includes countries and regions not belonging to the European Union: EEA members Iceland and Norway, NAFTA members Canada and the United States, and also Russia, especially its north-western regions, including the Leningrad oblast as well as Siberia,
- D. whereas there are certain urgent problems in northern Europe which must be addressed urgently by the European Union as a whole,

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 200, 30.6.1997, p. 166.<sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 138, 4.5.1998, p. 166.<sup>(3)</sup> Minutes of that sitting, Part II, Item 2.<sup>(4)</sup> OJ C 337, 11.11.1996, p. 7.

RES 225

Tuesday 4 May 1999

- E. whereas the European Union already tackles many of these issues through the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS),
- F. whereas it is important for the European Union to develop a common approach bringing together its activities in the various regional fora, notably the CBSS, the Barents Euro Arctic Council and the Arctic Council, and to actively foster cooperation with northern countries — Norway, Iceland, and Russia — which have not applied to join the EU,
- G. whereas the Northern Dimension is an essential part of the European Union's policy towards Russia,

1. Welcomes the initiative relating to the Northern Dimension of the Union's policies from the Baltic to the Atlantic, the Arctic Ocean and the Barents Sea; considers it important to safeguard peace and stability in Europe, promote democracy and improve human rights; believes that cross-border cooperation assists sustainable development and social and economic cohesion in northern Europe by reducing economic disparities between regions and considers that in order to strengthen democracy it is essential to support administrative development and the participation of national organisations in cooperation projects;

2. Urges the Commission to make all the requisite measures compatible with existing instruments and policies in an effective manner so that the long-term objectives of the Northern Dimension are attained; urges the Commission to participate in the work of the Arctic Council;

3. Calls on the Commission to take up, within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, some of the numerous concrete proposals on development of the legislative environment made by the 16 business leaders from 11 countries who met in Stockholm in January 1998;

4. Considers that the special conditions in the northern regions should be taken into account in developing the EU's policies in connection with the reform of the Structural Funds and the preparations for enlargement; is gratified that the Interreg Community initiative is to be enhanced in the next programming period; considers it important that inter-regional and cross-border cooperation is a priority in the programmes; considers that new forms of cooperation, such as the use of the Euregio model, should be promoted;

5. Calls on the Commission to update, as necessary, relevant Accession Partnerships to take the Northern Dimension into account;

6. Considers that environmental problems in the Baltic are increasingly coming under the spotlight as progress is made towards enlargement of the EU; considers it important that the environmental dimension should be stressed more than at present in the Interreg, PHARE and TACIS programmes; considers that these programmes could be used to enhance the Baltic programme included in the budget for 1999;

7. Considers it important to note that within the area of the Northern Dimension there are several important indigenous minorities, among them the Inuit and Sami peoples, as well as many autonomous entities;

8. Calls on the Commission to promote, under the Fifth Framework Programme, research studies with relevance to the Northern Dimension on the environment and health, sustainable forestry and a sustainable forest industry, climate change and biodiversity, marine research, utilisation of remote sensing methods, telematic applications for sparsely populated areas, nuclear safety and cleaner energy generation;

9. Considers that initial actions under the Northern Dimension can be funded through existing EU budget lines;

10. Considers that the Northern Dimension will make it possible to use the EU's existing aid funds more efficiently; believes that inter-regional and cross-border cooperation should be coordinated more effectively and that clear guidelines should be laid down for cooperation and a single common fund established, within which Interreg, PHARE, TACIS and their CBC components would operate; stresses that reconciliation of the Interreg, PHARE and TACIS programmes must continue as part of inter-regional and cross-border cooperation and that those programmes should be used to promote expansion in cooperation between neighbouring towns separated by a border;

Tuesday 4 May 1999

11. Considers that the administration of the TACIS programme should be developed and simplified and that resources should be allocated in such a way as to take account of the regions' special needs; considers that power of decision should be transferred to the regions;
12. Calls on the Commission to continue funding the project for the processing and disposal of intermediate-level and low-level nuclear wastes in the Kola Peninsula;
13. Calls on the Commission to continue supporting financially and technically the decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear power station in Lithuania and to investigate the possibility of decommissioning the Sosnovyi Bor nuclear power station in Russia;
14. Calls for the provision of aid for the removal of abandoned military installations, such as Paldiski nuclear submarine base in Estonia, and the rehabilitation of the land thereby released;
15. Calls on the Commission to devise a comprehensive plan to fight organised crime in this area in time for the Tampere Summit in October 1999;
16. Stresses the need for Europol to play an active role, involving the CBSS where possible, in ensuring cooperation between all the northern European countries in the fight against organised crime;
17. Calls for the development of cooperation with the authorities of Russia and other Baltic Sea Region States on matters falling within the scope of the third pillar (especially drug trafficking and money laundering);
18. Considers it vital to begin implementing the recommendations of the CBSS task force on organised crime and money laundering;
19. Regrets the fact that legal proceedings are being taken in Russia against Alexander Nikitin for providing information about environmental dangers, and trusts that he will be fully exonerated in the very near future;
20. Stresses the important role to be played by the NGOs active in promoting stability in the region;
21. Considers it important the EU should be able to meet the growing need for energy by supporting an extension to the Baltic of the Nordic electricity grid as well as pressing for the implementation of the recommendations of the feasibility studies for the Nordic Gas Grid and the North European Gas Pipeline, at the same time taking account of the uncertainty concerning foreign investment in Russian pipeline projects and the ecological dangers in connection with gas and oil exploration in Siberia;
22. Draws special attention to the development of transport and telecommunications infrastructure in the region: improvement of passenger and freight transport links as part of trans-European transport networks, development of rail connections, port facilities and airports, especially in the Murmansk, Archangel and the Baltic areas; takes the view that major trans-European network projects should receive funding from international financial institutions and should be submitted for public consultation;
23. Calls in this context, and taking into account the many remaining obstacles to trade between the EU and Russia, for negotiations with Russia regarding the sometimes inexplicable and immense problems of customs duties and border crossings;
24. Calls on the Commission to press for the implementation of the recommendations of the feasibility studies for the Nordic Gas Grid and the North European Gas Pipeline;
25. Considers it important that TACIS funding should be allocated to North-Western Russia and to regions adjoining the European Union; recommends that social and health issues should become a new priority for the TACIS programme; considers that funding for the CBC component of TACIS should be increased and that the programme should be used more than at present to fund investment, including in data communications;

Tuesday 4 May 1999

26. Underlines that financing for the priority areas of the Northern Dimension should involve private sector investments as well as international financial institutions (IBRD, EIB, EBRD and the Nordic Investment Bank) and that in order to increase the multiplier effect of the EU's technical assistance, EU funds should be increasingly earmarked for long-term investment-related projects and feasibility studies;
27. Urges the Commission, as a short-term goal, to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches the people of North-Western Russia and, in the longer term, to help Russia to reconstruct its health care system, with an emphasis on preventing the spread of communicable diseases;
28. Underlines that Arctic research should be supported also through relevant EU programmes in close collaboration with the relevant North American universities and institutions;
29. Maintains that, in accordance with the decision taken at the Vienna European Council, the Northern Dimension should be included within the scope of Union internal policy for the purposes of any decision-making connected with the Union's internal development;
30. Underlines the importance of the Commission's Inter-Service Task Force for the Northern Dimension to start operating as soon as possible, under the direction of a single Commissioner and for it to be endowed with adequate resources for it to fulfill its role of coordination and management;
31. Underlines that in order to increase transparency and allow for closer coordination, a calendar of ND-relevant events should be established;
32. Urges the Commission to support the existing cooperation partnerships, networks or fora like for example the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) so as to promote common local and regional sustainable development strategies; considers that the Member States' existing bilateral agreements in the Baltic and the Barents regions should be coordinated, and close cooperation among national, local and regional bodies and institutions of the same regions should be strengthened;
33. Calls on the Council and Commission to make careful preparations for the conference on the Northern Dimension to be held in November; considers it important that the above conference should pave the way for a subsequent 'Northern Summit', to be attended by all countries encompassed within the Northern Dimension, including Canada and the United States;
34. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council and to the governments and parliaments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Norway, Iceland, Canada and the United States.

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## 2. Multilateral trade negotiations (Rule 52)

A4-0221/99

### **Resolution on multilateral commercial relations: the European Union and the developing partner countries of the European Union**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 148 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having delegated the power of decision, pursuant to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure, to the Committee on External Economic Relations,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on External Economic Relations and the opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy (A4-0221/99),