

EU-Russia Summit – main outcome

Nizhny Novgorod 9-10 June

The 27th EU-Russia Summit took place on 9-10 June in Nizhny Novgorod. The EU was represented by President Van Rompuy, President Barroso, High Representative/Vice President Ashton and Commissioner De Gucht. Russian Federation was represented by President Medvedev, Foreign Minister Lavrov and Minister of Economic Development Nabiullina.

Discussions covered: **global economy and global governance** issues; EU-Russia relations, including the EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation and the negotiations on a New Agreement; trade issues, including prospects for Russia's WTO accession. The exchanges on international issues focused on developments in North Africa and the Middle East but included also European regional issues.

The Summit took place in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. This also contributed to a solution to the **Russian ban on import of vegetables** from the EU: 1. the ban of vegetables from the EU will be lifted; 2. a system of certification of the vegetables' safety by the European Commission will be put in place without any delay; 3. details of the certificate will be finalized as soon as possible between Russian and Commission services.

As regards the **forthcoming G 20 Summit** both sides underlined the need to pursue common efforts to reform financial markets and the international monetary system. EU stressed reestablished stability of the Euro-zone as a major contribution to global economic recovery and growth. EU also shared its concerns regarding insufficient progress in common action against on climate change as well as in Doha trade negotiations.

Progress made in the **EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation** was welcomed by both sides. Leaders took note of the progress report by the coordinators signed in the margins and welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding between EIB and Russian Development Bank VEB signed the same day, bringing available loan facilities (including EBRD) up to nearly €2bn.

Trade issues and WTO accession were discussed in considerable detail, both in plenary and in side meetings between Commissioner De Gucht and Minister Nabiullina. The EU expressed the political importance of Russian WTO accession. The new investment regime in the automotive sector was identified as a key outstanding issue of major sensitivity for both sides. It was agreed that talks would be continued at ministerial level next week. Both sides reaffirmed their determination to find a solution before the summer. EU reiterated its concerns over the implementation of the Customs Union and urged better and earlier information about changes in Russian trade regime in this context.

EU urged more balanced progress in negotiations on a **New Agreement between EU and Russia**, in particular on trade and investment including energy, and encouraged President Medvedev to give a mandate to Russian negotiators soon to engage on substantive provisions.

Discussions on **energy** emphasized examples of good cooperation (Nord Stream, Road Map 2050) but also highlighted differences of views regarding EU's 3rd internal energy market package. On **nuclear safety**, both sides agreed on importance of stress tests and welcomed the Deauville declaration. EU encouraged Russia to do its utmost with regard to environmental and safety assessments in the Baltic nuclear project. EU urged progress on energy provisions in the New Agreement and a more level playing field on the Russian market, including non-discriminatory access to energy infrastructure and possibility to export energy.

On **visas**, both sides welcomed recent progress in negotiations of Common Steps towards visa free regime and looked forward to an agreement as soon as possible. Both sides welcomed recent launch of a Migration Dialogue.

EU underlined importance of **human rights** as an essential element for bilateral relations and argued for a change in the modalities of the EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations in order to make them more efficient. EU underlined the need to respect international commitments on human rights as well as on pluralism and **free and fair elections** and hoped that Russia would extend an early invitation to ODIHR for election observation.

Both sides underlined their satisfaction with successful **crisis management** cooperation and agreed that a Framework Agreement should be aimed for to be concluded by the time of the next Summit.

As regards **international issues** developments in North Africa and the Middle East were subject to a comprehensive discussion with detailed exchanges in particular on Libya and Syria. Both sides agreed that all violence must be ended and also shared concerns about situation in Yemen. On the Middle East Peace Process, both sides welcomed the Palestinian reconciliation deal and stressed the need for a Ministerial Quartet meeting soon. There was a short exchange of views on Iran.

Discussions about **European regional issues** covered conflict resolution efforts in Moldova /Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia. EU reiterated need for full implementation of August and September 2008 agreements and its commitment to Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability. There was finally an exchange of views on Western Balkans with focus on Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.