



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO UKRAINE

Kyiv, 31 March 2004

**прес-реліз**

**Парафування Протоколу про поширення Угоди про партнерство та співробітництво між Україною та ЄС adoption by the Commission of a Communication on Relations with Russia, 9 February EU/Russia Summit, Rome, 6 November. 30 березня 2004 року**

Сьогодні заступник Генерального директора Майкл Лей та Постійний представник України при Європейському Союзі Роман Шпек ~~today adopted a Communication on relations with Russia, calling for the at the 12<sup>th</sup> Summit between the European Union and Russia, that will to be held in Rome on 6 November 2003. Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, will head the EU delegation, assisted by the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana. reinforcement of the EU's relations with Russia. The Communication suggests measures to improve the effectiveness of the EU's approach to its relations with Russia, in particular in light of EU and Russian interdependence, the EU enlargement on 1 May and unresolved conflicts in the NIS. It underlines that the EU and Russia should be ready, as partners, to discuss frankly all issues of concern, including human rights, media freedom and events in Chechnya as well as to step up cooperation on concrete issues, on the basis of our common interests. The Communication serves as the basis for a discussion on relations with Russia between the 25 EU foreign ministers, Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten and Javier Solana on 23 February.~~ офіційно парафували Протокол, у відповідності до якого нові Держави-Члени ЄС стають сторонами Угоди про партнерство та співробітництво. Парафування підтверджує згоду щодо змісту Протоколу і дозволяє Україні та Європейському Союзу наблизитися до офіційного підписання та тимчасового застосування Протоколу з 1 травня 2004 року.

Угода про партнерство та співпрацю між Європейськими співтовариствами та їхніми Державами-Членами з одного боку та Україною з іншого боку була підписана у червні 1994 року та набула чинності 1 березня 1998 року. Парафований сьогодні Протокол підтверджує, що нові Держави-Члени стають сторонами Угоди та користуються положеннями, які стосуються широкого кола питань політично-економічної співпраці з Україною.

Підписання Протоколу заплановано на квітень цього року після завершення сторонами їхніх внутрішніх правових процедур. Для підписання Протоколу Європейським Союзом необхідно офіційне рішення Ради ЄС. Підписаний протокол буде застосовуватися тимчасово з 1 травня, поки він не буде схвалений Європейським парламентом і Верховною Радою України.

Пан Майкл Лей, який очолює групу, що веде переговори з боку Європейського Союзу, привітав продемонстрований Україною підхід, який дозволив швидко домовитися про Протокол про поширення, що є позитивним сигналом виконання Україною свого зобов'язання тісніше працювати з Європейським Союзом.

Україна стане безпосереднім сусідом Європейського Союзу після його розширення, і ЄС залишається відданим ідеї забезпечення тісніших стосунків між Україною та розширеним Європейським Союзом. Україна та ЄС продовжують обговорення практичного вирішення питань, що пов'язані з приєднанням нових Держав-Членів до Європейського Союзу та потребують вирішення у найближчому майбутньому.

~~Communication recognises the interdependence of the EU and Russia and our extensive common interests, ranging from tackling crime and pollution to trade ties (two-way trade amounted to €78 billion in 2002). It highlights the successes which cooperation in recent years has produced but notes that, in many areas, EU and Russian positions appear increasingly to diverge. This includes EU and Russian positions on ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, extension of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement to the ten new EU Member States and the need to make our Agreement work more effectively, the approach to resolving frozen conflicts in the NIS as well as respect for human rights, including media freedom and events in Chechnya. To address the lack of progress on these matters, the Communication argues that the EU has to become more tactical, more coherent and more consistent in its dealings with Russia.~~

~~The Communication suggests the most effective means to work towards the strategic goal agreed at the St. Petersburg Summit last May to create four EU/Russia common spaces — a common economic space, a common space of freedom, security and justice, a common space of cooperation in the field of external security as well as a common space of research and education, including culture. It calls for the EU to:~~

~~— engage with Russia to build a genuine strategic partnership, moving away from grand political declarations and establishing an issues base strategy and agenda;~~

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~~— underline that the EU/Russia partnership must be founded on shared values and common interests, which implies discussing frankly Russian practices that run counter to European values, including on human rights, media freedom and cooperation on the environment;~~

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~~— pursue a more balanced cooperation agenda with Russia and promote policy coherence;~~

~~— bring together related issues, where relevant, to promote the EU interest and launch the Permanent Partnership Council (which will bring together the Ministers of the EU troika with their Russian counterparts in the Ministry of Transport, Justice etc.) and examine ways to improve the efficiency of other cooperation institutions.~~

~~— Progress on the creation of The summit will seek to make progress on the four common spaces that were agreed at the St. Petersburg Summit last May will feature highly on the agenda. Leaders will also discuss the common democratic values that underpin EU-Russia relations, the prospects for early Russian ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, cooperation on nuclear and maritime safety, and the impact of the EU's enlargement on bilateral relations.~~

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~~This will be the last Summit before the EU's historic enlargement becomes a reality in May 2004. The importance of extending the EU Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to the acceding EU member states beforehand will be highlighted.~~

~~Following on from the success of the St Petersburg Summit, discussions will address progress achieved in the creation of the four 'common spaces' (economic; freedom, security and justice; research, education and culture; and external security) that will build on the PCA, taking into account the Wider Europe initiative.~~

~~The Summit will welcome the agreement reached by the High Level Group in Moscow on 28 October concerning the concept of the common European economic space, which offers a blueprint for economic integration, and will agree on specific implementation measures. Leaders will also endorse the latest progress report on the energy dialogue and will discuss the prospects for Russia's accession to the WTO, including measures to remove Siberian overflight payments and distortions in the Russian energy sector.~~

~~Discussions on the common space of freedom, security and justice will allow the EU to remind Russia of the emphasise common democratic values, in particular respect for human rights and the rule of law. The EU looks to Russia to quickly to conclude negotiations on an EU Russia readmission agreement, and to step up work against organised crime and promoting cooperation on border management, for which it is important that Russia signs and ratifies border agreements with Estonia and Latvia. The long term perspective of a visa free travel regime between the EU and Russia and reciprocal visa facilitation will also be addressed. In addition, an agreement between Europol and the Russian Interior Ministry will be signed in the margins.~~

~~As regards the common space of research, education and culture, leaders will welcome the renewal of the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, which will be signed in the margins of the Summit, as well as Russian participation in the Bologna process, which provides for the mutual recognition of diplomas.~~

~~In the context of creating a common space of external security, the EU and Russia will take note of the tangible progress made in the field of disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Leaders will also discuss prospects for reinforced cooperation in crisis management and civil protection within existing structures.~~

~~Beyond the four common spaces, the EU will seek to intensify cooperation to tackle common challenges, such as maritime safety, nuclear safety and the environment. The EU expects Russia to submit the Kyoto Protocol to the Duma for ratification as soon as possible. Prospects for enhancing cooperation on the Galileo project will also be addressed.~~

~~The EU delegation will also raise a number of domestic issues in Russia, in particular developments in Chechnya and the Yukos case. On Chechnya, the EU will focus on the political prospects for a lasting peace in the region as well as the need for Russia to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid. The case of kidnapped aid worker Arjan Erkel will be raised. In the context of the Yukos case, the Commission will recall the need for the fair, non-discriminatory and proportional application of the law by the Russian authorities. Defendants must be granted due process so that they have a fair chance of defending themselves. The Commission will continue to support the implementation of judicial reforms in Russia since failure to respect these key principles would not only undermine the progress made in Russia in the last few years to create a positive environment for the development of trade and investment by Russian and foreign companies but could also hold back Russia's integration into a common European economic space.~~

~~Ways and means to unlock the frozen conflict in the Transdniestrian region of Moldova will provide the focus for discussions on international issues, with an exchange of views on the implementation of~~

~~Russia's OSCE commitments on military withdrawal from the region. The situation in Iraq and the Middle East, as well as relations with Iran will also feature on the agenda.~~

