

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE

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21ST MEETING

27 November 2003, Brussels

RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 21st meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels, 27 November 2003

Resolution on *The Wider Europe and the EEA*

co-rapporteurs: Mr Birkir JONSSON (Progressive Party, Iceland) and Ms Erika MANN
(PES, Germany) adopted unanimously.

RESOLUTION

On The Wider Europe and the EEA

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area

- A. noting the Commission Communication “Wider Europe: A new framework for relations with our Eastern and Southern neighbours” COM (2003) 104 final, the Council Conclusions on Wider Europe – New Neighbourhood, General Affairs and External Relations Council 16 June 2003 and the report/motion for a resolution of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Commission Communication dated 5 November 2003
- B. noting that the EFTA countries already today have contractual relations with nine out of the fourteen so-called Wider Europe countries
- C. noting the outcome of the EU-Russia Summit in Rome on 6 November 2003
 - 1. welcomes the Commission Communication on Wider Europe, and a neighbourhood policy aiming to promote security, prosperity, fundamental freedoms, human rights, the rule of law and democracy;
 - 2. appreciates that EU actions deriving from the Communication will have implications for the EEA EFTA States as they are important actors across the area of the new neighbourhood, including Russia;
 - 3. welcomes the forthcoming action plans, and calls upon the EEA EFTA States to assess the proposed actions, and where feasible, to mirror these actions;
 - 4. notes with interest the principle of parallelism between the EU and the EEA EFTA States with regard to developing the economic relationship with Ukraine, Moldova and Russia, and with Belarus as soon as it has fulfilled the necessary political conditions;
 - 5. notes the increased EU focus on the Southern and Mediterranean neighbours, and calls upon the EEA EFTA States to intensify their relations with these countries in order to avoid potential discrepancies and discrimination of EEA EFTA economic operators, vis-à-vis EU counterparts;
 - 6. notes that financial and technical assistance can play an important role in developing relations with the Wider Europe countries;
 - 7. notes that parts of the Internal Market may be extended to some “Wider Europe” countries in the medium-term, and calls on the Contracting Parties,

in the event, to insure that no discrepancies or discrimination will be suffered by EEA EFTA economic operators;

8. notes that the “Wider Europe” concept paves the way for a deeper political relationship between the EU and the neighbouring states, and for co-operation outside the scope of the Internal Market, and calls on the EEA EFTA States to examine their political relations with these countries in line with the EU;
9. supports the relaunching of the European Conference into a permanent body of the New Neighbourhood policy and calls for the continued participation of the EFTA States;
10. supports the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and calls for modalities to be found for the participation of EEA EFTA parliaments.