

JOINT CONCLUSIONS

Russia-EU Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice

Warsaw, 10-11 October 2011

The fifteenth meeting of the Russia-EU Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice was held in Warsaw on 10-11 October 2011.

The Russian Federation delegation was headed by Mr. Alexander Konovalov, Special Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation for cooperation with the European Union in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice, Minister of Justice, and Mr. Sergey Bulavin, State Secretary, Deputy Minister of Interior.

The European Union delegation was headed by Mr. Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, Minister of Justice of Poland, Mr. Jerzy Miller, Minister of Interior of Poland, and Ms Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs. Mr. Morten Bødskov, Minister of Justice of Denmark was also present at the meeting.

The participants reviewed the progress in the implementation of the Russia-EU Roadmap for the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice and reached the following conclusions:

- The Parties welcomed the finalization by the Senior Officials of the text of list of Common Steps towards visa free short-term travel of Russian and EU citizens. They look forward to its earliest formal approval. They also discussed the perspectives for engaging in negotiations on a visa waiver agreement after the implementation of the list of the Common Steps.
- The Parties look forward to prompt finalization of the negotiations on amendments to the 2006 Russia-EU visa facilitation agreement.
- The Parties emphasised the importance of effective implementation of the Russia-EU readmission agreement, continuing efforts in order to further improve the application of some of its technical aspects and called upon prompt conclusion of the implementing protocols between Russia and EU Member states.
- Given the particular geographical position of the Kaliningrad oblast of the Russian Federation, the Parties encouraged the early conclusion of an agreement between Russia and Poland on local border traffic, subject to the relevant legislation of the Parties.
- The Parties welcomed the launch of the Migration Dialogue and its first meeting held on 27 June 2011 in Moscow, endorsed the Work Plan for 2011-2012 and looked forward to its implementation.
- The Parties agreed to strengthen their cooperation on combating transnational crime. They look forward to the conclusion of cooperation agreements between Russia and Europol and Eurojust.
- The Parties reconfirmed their commitment to strengthen their cooperation to combat trafficking in human beings and will explore practical ways of this cooperation.
- The Parties reiterated their common interest to cooperate in the fight against corruption, including through implementation of their international anti-corruption commitments, and looked forward to the expert meeting on corruption to be held by the end of 2011;

- The Parties underlined their interest in further developing practical judicial cooperation in civil and criminal law; to that end they will continue discussions at expert level.
- The Parties agreed to strengthen their cooperation on combating illicit drugs in a balanced way. In this spirit, they look forward to the conclusion of the drugs precursors agreement and underline the importance of the visit of Russian experts to EU rehabilitation centres and the expert consultations on drugs to be held in Brussels on 9 November 2011 with a view to discussing strategies and proposals of the Parties.
- The Parties acknowledged the importance of the protection of personal data in their practical judicial, law enforcement, anti-drugs and drug precursors cooperation.

The participants agreed to hold the next, sixteenth meeting of the Russia-EU Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice in 2012 in the Russian Federation.