

## RECOMMENDATION 760

### *on security cooperation between the EU and its eastern neighbours*

The Assembly,

- (i) Considering the importance that the EU attaches to promoting close cooperative relations with its eastern neighbours;
- (ii) Noting in particular the need to create the conditions for stronger cooperation on specific security issues;
- (iii) Stressing that the fight against corruption and mafia activities (drug trafficking, illegal immigration, trafficking in women, illegal adoption and criminal mercenaries) is a priority for the EU's eastern neighbours;
- (iv) Noting that many regional conflicts on the EU's borders are deliberately being fuelled by the mafia and their political connections;
- (v) Stressing the geostrategic and economic importance of Ukraine for the European Union and welcoming the positive political developments which have taken place in Ukraine following the December 2004 presidential elections;
- (vi) Aware of the extent of the economic and social reforms that need to be carried out in Ukraine and of the political issues at stake in the parliamentary elections of March 2006 and convinced that the reform process needs specific aid from the European Union that will have a practical effect on the social and democratic situation of the Ukrainian people;
- (vii) Noting with satisfaction the political resolve expressed by the new Ukrainian authorities to develop closer relations with the EU and NATO;
- (viii) Welcoming the signature of the EU/Ukraine Action Plan on 21 February 2005 and the additional measures adopted with a view to strengthening it;
- (ix) Concerned about the existence of as yet unresolved border conflicts between Ukraine and Russia and between Ukraine and Romania;
- (x) Considering the results of the recent parliamentary elections in Moldova and welcoming the political will of the Moldovan authorities to develop closer relations with the EU;
- (xi) Concerned about the conflict in Transnistria which has been going on for more than twelve years and supporting the Moldovan authorities in their desire to broaden the format of the negotiations that are being conducted in order to resolve the conflict;
- (xii) Taking the view that Russia should make a supplementary effort to contribute to the settlement of the status of Transnistria;
- (xiii) Welcoming the appointment in March 2005 of an EU Special Representative for Moldova and the desire expressed by the EU to contribute to a settlement of the conflict in Transnistria;
- (xiv) Expressing the hope that the new Ukrainian authorities will cooperate actively in the efforts to resolve the conflict in Transnistria, in particular by stepping up controls along the Moldovan-Ukrainian border;
- (xv) Concerned about the persistent unwillingness of the Belarus authorities to create the necessary conditions for democratic progress in that country;
- (xvi) Aware that the development of the EU's relations with Belarus will depend on the progress the authorities in that country make towards democratisation;

- (xvii) Considering the special relationship between Russia and Belarus, in particular in the area of defence;
- (xviii) Stressing the need to deepen the strategic partnership between Russia and the European Union and welcoming the outcome of the 15<sup>th</sup> EU-Russia Summit of 10 May 2005 in Moscow, especially the agreement on a package of roadmaps for the creation of four common EU-Russia areas (the economy, security/freedom/justice, external security, research/education/culture);
- (xix) Considering it indispensable to ensure quick and efficient implementation of the agreements concluded between the EU and Russia, in particular in the area of security;
- (xx) Considering that differences in the assessment of democratic standards are also a potential source of dispute;
- (xxi) Aware that those EU member states which are Russia's immediate neighbours, in particular Finland, Poland and the Baltic States, are particularly keen to see the development of a constructive common policy with regard to Russia;
- (xxii) Stressing the importance of the mutual economic interests of Russia, the EU member states and the EU's eastern neighbours while recognising that they may have divergent security interests;
- (xxiii) Recalling Assembly Recommendation 697 adopted unanimously on 4 December 2001, which urged the Council to "request the EU to further intensify dialogue and cooperation with Russia on political and security issues and in particular on developments in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine where both have a common interest in security, stability and economic development";
- (xxiv) Recalling also Assembly Recommendation 715 adopted unanimously on 3 December 2002, which urged the Council to "pursue its efforts to assist Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova in the process of political democratisation and the liberalisation of trade relations" and to "continue actively to strengthen the strategic partnership with Russia",

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL REQUEST THE WEU COUNTRIES TO INVITE THE EU TO:

1. Take immediate steps to open up CFSP activities more broadly to Ukraine;
2. Strengthen dialogue with Ukraine with a view to evaluating its prospects of closer links with the EU;
3. Provide more support to the democratic movement in Belarus;
4. Offer Moldova the prospect of integration in the stabilisation and association process for south-eastern Europe;
5. Secure an undertaking from the parties involved in negotiations on the conflict in Transdnistria to become more closely involved alongside the EU, in a broader negotiating framework, with a view to finding a definitive solution to the conflict;
6. Increase cooperation between the member states of the EU and its neighbours in the fight against organised crime, in particular by strengthening border controls and cross-border cooperation;
7. Engage in dialogue with Russia on the conditions for and principles of democracy as a key component of security.