

Joint communiqué
of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council
on Freedom, Security and Justice

14-15 October, Paris

The ninth meeting of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council (PPC) on Freedom, Security and Justice was held in Paris on 14-15 October 2008.

At the meeting, the European Union was represented by Brice Hortefeux, Minister of Immigration, integration, national identity and mutually-supportive development, Michèle Alliot-Marie, Minister of Interior, Overseas France and Territorial communities, and Rachida Dati, Minister of Justice of the current French EU Presidency, Vice President of the European Commission Jacques Barrot, responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security, as well as Tomas Bocek, Deputy-minister of Justice of the incoming Czech EU Presidency.

The Russian Federation was represented by Alexander Kononov, Minister of Justice, Special Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation with the EU in the Field of Freedom, Security and Justice, and Rashid Nurgaliev, Minister of Interior.

The participants reviewed the implementation of the EU-Russia Road Map of the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice and noted that this well-advanced cooperation can bring further tangible benefits for citizens. Both parties reiterated the importance of respecting the overarching principles for the Common Space providing a framework for closer cooperation.

The participants exchanged views on the implementation of the EC-Russia Agreements on Visa Facilitation and Readmission and reconfirmed their will to continue discussions on related technical questions in a constructive manner.

Attention was given to the Visa Dialogue to be continued in accordance with the modalities approved by the PPC.

They also underlined the importance of continuing the dialogue on migration management and asylum issues.

As regards border issues, both parties welcomed the established cooperation between FRONTEX and the Russian Border Guard Service and discussed issues concerning common borders.

Both parties appreciated the valuable cooperation between EUROPOL and liaison officers of the EU Member States, on the one hand, and Russian law enforcement agencies, on the other, and of operational cooperation in the fight against organised crime. They also highlighted the importance of cooperating in the fight against cyber crime.

The participants exchanged views on issues related to narcotics, including cooperation with respect to drugs precursors, synthetic drugs and drugs originating from Afghanistan, and discussed the development of anti-drug cooperation platforms.

The participants exchanged views on judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and welcomed the recent contacts between EUROJUST and Russia on a possible cooperation agreement.

The incoming Czech EU Presidency presented its priorities and committed itself to a constructive cooperation.

The EU and Russia agreed to hold the tenth meeting of the EU-Russia PPC on Freedom, Security and Justice during the first half of 2009 in Russia.

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