



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Delegations

Subject : Report on the First Expert Meeting on Critical Infrastructure Protection between
European Union and the Russian Federation (Helsinki, 7 - 8 December 2006)

Delegations will find in Annex I the Report on the First Expert Meeting on Critical Infrastructure Protection between European Union and the Russian Federation (Helsinki, 7 - 8 December 2006) for their information.

1. Following the adoption of the EU Russia Road Map of the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice in May 2005, the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council (PPC) in Luxembourg on 13 October 2005 adopted a declaration in which it was agreed, in the context of the fight against terrorism, to organise clusters of seminars/conferences which would bring together experts and practitioners dealing with the protection of critical infrastructure, preparedness (including training of special units), contingency planning in emergency situations and sharing of information.

The subsequent PPC meetings held on 21-22 March 2006 in Moscow and 29-30 October 2006 in Helsinki called for the implementation of the above declaration.

Therefore, the EU-Presidency organised a First EU-Russia Expert Meeting on Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) (list of participants contained in Annex II).

2. The EU-Presidency informed on the background and the state of play of EU work on the development of a European Programme for the protection of critical infrastructures (EPCIP). In particular, it presented the Council conclusions on the principles for EPCIP.

The European Commission outlined the potential content of its envisaged proposal for an EPCIP policy package shortly to be adopted. The Commission confirmed its interest in developing future cooperation on a critical infrastructure sector based approach with the Russian Federation on CIP related issues. Where relevant and subject to approval by the EU Member States, memoranda of understanding outlining cooperation measures could be developed on a Critical Infrastructure (CI) sector basis between the EU and the Russian Federation in the context of the external dimension of EPCIP.

3. The Russian Federation appreciated the initiative taken by EU to organise the expert meeting. It confirmed its will to cooperate with the EU in the field of the protection of critical infrastructure.

The Russian Federation experts informed about main lines and forms of CIP activities in Russia and experience of interaction with international partners in G8 format and with CIS countries.

While discussing the forms of possible cooperation the Russian party expressed its interest in developing tools of preliminary exchange of information, the aim of which is to estimate threats, to reduce the vulnerability of CI and to find suitable forms and methods of cooperation.

The Russian side expressed its wish to receive information from EU side about the CI – assessment system used in EU, definitions and criteria on the critical infrastructure, how the CIP – system works in EU Member States and how the adequacy of the protection level of the CI facilities is assessed.

4. The experts underlined the multiple nature of threats to Critical Infrastructure and the growing interdependency between Russia and EU. In this connection it was emphasised that the parties are interested in developing mutual cooperation in critical infrastructure protection in such sectors as energy, transport, ICT, finances etc.

In the discussions, a first exchange of ideas on common interests took place. In particular, the following aspects were raised:

- Vital elements of the Critical Infrastructure in EU and Russian Federation are closely connected. The interconnected and interdependent nature of the Critical Infrastructures means that a disruption may have a serious impact on both sides.
- CI can be damaged, destroyed or disrupted by acts of terrorism, natural disasters, negligence, accidents or computer hacking, criminal activity and malicious behaviour.
- Special attention should be paid to the Contingency Planning of the critical functions in emergency situations as well as to the sharing of information on potential threats and of best practices on critical infrastructure protection and preparedness.

- The need to protect energy facilities (especially electricity, gas and oil) as well as relevant sea, air and land transport against the terrorist attacks was highlighted.

5. Participants identified in particular the following issues which need to be taken into account in the EU Russia CIP framework:

- The usefulness of sector based discussions on expert level in order to further develop the common approach
- Involvement of relevant public and private stakeholders.

Both sides agreed to consider the issues discussed during the meeting and to inform each other regularly on progress achieved in their respective work in the field of the protection of critical infrastructures. Both sides expressed their commitment to further implement the Luxemburg Declaration on CIP.

The Commission agreed to organise an informal information sharing meeting to be held in Brussels in March 2007 as the first step towards getting acquainted with the CIP experience of the EU.

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