

**European Green Party  
7th COUNCIL MEETING  
Vienna, 12-14<sup>th</sup> October 2007**



**Adopted resolution**

**The cancellation of the Green Conference in Moscow**

The Green Group in the European Parliament had long ago planned to hold a public conference in Moscow from 28 to 31 October dealing with EU-Russia relations, external relations in a multilateral framework, security, energy and the implementation of the Kyoto protocol.

Just two weeks before Greens learnt that the Russian government refused to issue the visas for Members of Parliament and staff preventing them from entering the country. Since no clear explanation was given we have to assume that the refusal was politically motivated. The conference had therefore to be canceled.

Greens have always taken a keen interest in the relations between the EU and Russia. While the strategic partnership continues to develop from an economic and trade perspective problems and misunderstandings hamper political dialogue. Building a strategic partnership is in the interest of both sides and building an Europe-wide democracy is an integral part of this partnership. The two things are deeply linked.

The decision of the Russian authorities is a further worrying sign that the country is closing on itself and that an open and democratic debate on key issues is no longer welcome in Russia. Further to this the question of visa is a clear pretext since recently the EU and the Russian Federation signed an agreement on visa facilitation.

The European Greens condemn the conduct of the Russian authorities and calls on them to respect their commitments. The Greens urge, furthermore, the EU to raise firmly the questions of democracy, human rights and freedom of expression with the Russian counterpart at the forthcoming summit of 26 October.