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Position Paper | 12.05.2021

EU-Russia : Components for a strategic reset

A Green strategy paper

This paper - coordinated by MEPs Sergey Lagodinsky and Reinhard Bütikofer - was adopted on 12 May by the Group. It was endorsed without EFA participation.

It is time to reassess the EU relationship vis-à-vis the Russian Federation. Recent months have demonstrated that our Russia strategy needs a strategic reset.

The following components for a new strategy are informed by the reality of a deepening antagonism between the EU and Russia, but are also carried by a vision for bilateral renewal, albeit following a long dry spell in mutual relations that we have to get through.

This paper outlines expectations and goals, as well as key components for EU strategy on Russia.

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Overview

I. EXPECTATIONS AND GOALS

a. Changing expectations

b. Key objective and strategic goals

II. KEY COMPONENTS FOR EU STRATEGY ON RUSSIA

- a. Our policy seeks partnership with the Russian people and is thus pro-Russian
- b. Support for active civil society remains the cornerstone of our policy
- c. Our Russia and Eastern Europe policies are informed by historical memory and recognition of responsibilities and traumas
- d. We respect Russia's interests, but not Russia's revisionism
- e. We rise to the challenge of systemic competition
- f. There are red lines for cooperation with Russian state actors
- g. We pursue nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament with Russia
- h. As a new priority, we want to consistently combat money laundering
- i. We strengthen resilience and countermeasure capabilities against hybrid interference
- j. We use technological standards and the open internet to support free spaces and restrict oppressive technologies
- k. We strengthen the collective power and credibility of the EU including strategic unbundling
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