



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council conclusions on Siberia**

**(2721st TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY,  
Council meeting - Brussels, 27 March 2006)**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union

- underlines the importance of developing a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship between the EU and Russia in the field of transport;
- regrets that the issue of Siberian overflight payments continues to be an obstacle to the development of such a relationship;
- reiterates its strong concerns with regard to the system of Siberian overflight payments made by EC carriers for the right to overfly Russian territory; considers that this practice is not in line with Russia's obligations under the Chicago Convention, and in particular Article 15 thereof;
- reaffirms inter alia its conclusions of 27/28 June 2005 in which it stressed the priority importance of reaching a satisfactory solution to the phasing out of these payments;
- considers reaching such a solution to be a prerequisite for Russia's accession to WTO;
- recalls the commitment of the Russian government of May 2004 in this regard;

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- mandates the Commission to negotiate an agreement with the Russian government assuring
  - = the complete abolition of payments at the latest by 31 December 2013;
  - = progressive reduction of payments during the transition period from 2006 onwards;
  - = the end of mandatory commercial agreements related to the overflight of the territory of the Russian Federation by 2013 at the latest;
  - = gradual removal of restrictions on overflights over Russian territory between Europe and Asia and complete elimination of all non-technical restrictions by 2013 at the latest.
  
- considers that such an agreement will supersede the relevant provisions in bilateral aviation agreements, including any related documents, between Member States and the Russian Federation;
  
- expresses the wish, on the basis of a successful resolution of the overflight issue, to examine with the Russian Federation the possibilities for further developing cooperation in the field of transport."

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