



EU INTEGRATION & COMMON SECURITY: MAKING IT HAPPEN
The 6th annual meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
20-21 November 2014, Batumi, Georgia

RESOLUTION: Cooperation with EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
SESSION: 6th EaP CSF Annual Assembly
ADOPTED ON: 21/11/14

The 6th Annual Assembly of EaP Civil Society Forum welcomes the efforts of the EU – Russia Civil Society Forum (EU-Russia CSF) to elaborate common positions in the spheres of human rights, social justice, democracy, the rule of law and the environment of civil society groups from Russia, the European Union and third countries in Europe.

In addition the Assembly invites individual civil society organizations in the EaP-CSF to maintain links with the EU-Russia CSF and support its activities in strengthening Civil Society in Russia and the EU and invites individual members of the EU-Russia CSF to support the development of civil society in the Eastern Partnership countries. EaP CSF working groups and sub groups might also look for areas of common interest in fields such as media freedom or the legal environment in which civil society in post Soviet countries has to operate with the EU-Russia forum with a view to joint projects.

The assembly considers that the Steering Committees of the EaP CSF and the EU-Russia CSF should regularly exchange information on issues of common interest.

However, the assembly notes that the two civil society fora have differing aims. The EU-Russia Forum is not looking to a closer institutional relationship between the EU and Russia while the aims of EaP CSF include bringing the Eastern Partners closer to the EU and through Association agreements to open up the possibility of future membership of the EU.

In this case, the assembly is unable to see the added value of closer institutional relations between the two for a and stresses that such a close relationship would only confuse and hinder the pursuit of their separate aims by the EaP CSF and the EU-Russia Forum.