



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Joint statement of the EU-Russia Summit on cross border cooperation

The European Union and the Russian Federation, aiming to promote their strategic partnership and in line with the priorities set out in the Roadmaps of the Four EU - Russia Common Spaces announce their agreement to cooperate in seven joint Cross Border Cooperation programmes over the period of 2007-13.

These programmes will promote economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders, environmental protection and support cross-border “people to people” actions.

Both sides agree that such financial cooperation is based on the principles of equal partnership and mutual interests. Local and regional actors on both sides of the borders have been working together on the joint programmes with the Russian Federation contributing € 122 million, the European Community € 307 million, in addition to contributions from EU Member States and other partner countries. The Parties intend to start implementing these Programmes in early 2009.

P R E S S
