



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Khanty-Mansiysk, 27 June 2008
11214/08 (Presse 192)

**Joint statement of the EU-Russia summit on the launch of
negotiations for a new EU-Russia agreement**

We, the leaders of the European Union and the Russian Federation, today in Khanty-Mansiysk launched the negotiations for a New EU/Russia Agreement to replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which entered into force on 1 December 1997. We have agreed that the existing Agreement will remain in force until replaced by the New Agreement.

We agreed that the aim is to conclude a strategic agreement that will provide a comprehensive framework for EU/Russia relations for the foreseeable future and help to develop the potential of our relationship. It should provide for a strengthened legal basis and legally binding commitments covering all main areas of the relationship, as included in the four EU/Russia common spaces and their road maps which were agreed at the Moscow Summit in May 2005.

P R E S S

The New Agreement will build on the international commitments which bind the EU and Russia. It will contain the appropriate institutional provisions to ensure the efficient functioning of the EU/Russia relationship.

The first round of negotiations will take place in Brussels on 4 July.
