

Conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council: Declaration on Russia and the CIS (11–12 December 1992)

Caption: On 12 December 1992, at the Edinburgh European Council, the Twelve adopt a declaration on future relations between the European Community, Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Source: Edinburgh European Council-Conclusions (Edinburgh, 11-12 December 1992), Declaration on Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States(SN 456/92 Partie D). Brussels: Council of the European Communities, 1992.

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One year after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the European Council renews its commitment to help the transition from Communism to democracy.

The peoples of the European Community are building new friendships with the peoples of Russia and of the CIS. Our goal is the full integration of these States into the world's political and economic systems. We are seeking to forge new and equal partnerships, based on respect for sovereignty; shared values of freedom, democracy, civil and political rights and social well-being; and market-oriented economies and free enterprise.

Substantial progress has been made in only one year, despite the inevitable difficulties. The Russian Government, under the authority of President Yeltsin, has brought in practical reform measures of historic significance. We strongly support the process of transformation now under way aimed at a free, united and prosperous Russia.

Cooperation between the Community and its member States and countries of the CIS is developing rapidly. It is extending into unprecedented areas. Joint business ventures and new political relationships have been created. Friendly exchanges have been initiated at various levels. We are making joint efforts to handle international crises.

We pledge ourselves to build on this cooperation. We shall continue to give the strongest possible support to those striving for democracy. We shall seek to develop trade, investment and technical cooperation. We are acutely conscious of the many problems of national minorities, and shall work closely with those who seek to pre-empt confrontation and to find peaceful solutions where conflict has broken out.

The European Council sees partnership with members of the Commonwealth of Independent States as a long-term commitment to bring our peoples closer together over the next generation..