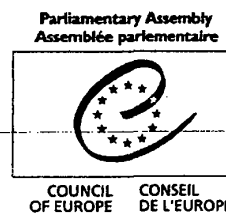


**Parliamentary Assembly**  
**Assemblée parlementaire**



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**AS (2006) CR 14**  
**Prov. Addendum 2**

2006 ORDINARY SESSION

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(Second part)

REPORT

Fourteenth sitting

Thursday 13 April at 10 a.m.

**ADDENDUM 2**

**Memorandum of understanding between the Council of Europe and  
the European Union**

The following text was submitted for inclusion in the official report by a member who was present in the Chamber but was prevented by lack of time from delivering it.

Mr KOROBINKOV (*Russian Federation*) - Until now the interaction between the two European institutions – the Council of Europe and the European Union – is being considered only in the light of the compatibility between their legal and political systems. The draft of the recommendation being discussed today is written in the same sense. In my opinion it is high time to think about the following: the European Union should be more attentive towards economic issues considered by the Council of Europe. This has not taken place so far. The more the pan-European general economic architecture is left behind in the development of pan-European political institutions, the more it will be out of their concern, and the more will these politico-legal structures work for themselves, outside the real social-economic life.

The general belief, that economic issues are to be settled within bilateral relations between states only, is not enough to strengthen the European continent in general. A general pan-European economic approach is badly needed now. It is necessary to reflect such an approach in the future version of the memorandum of understanding.

Russia is nearer than the others to the implementation of such a continental economic approach. I would like to ask the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly to encourage the European Union – in its capacity as an institution expressing the supranational, continental interest – to be more active in promoting its break-through economic activities in Eastern Europe, in our country in particular. This will strengthen considerably the economy of the European continent as a whole.

Russia and other states of Eastern Europe are at such a stage in their development that economic rebirth might be ahead of strengthening democratic values – for a certain period of time. The representatives of the “old” European democracy should not be frightened by that. Only when real economic stability is achieved in these countries will it be possible to open all the doors for the penetration of European values. But not for all of them. Why, for example, does Russia need such an extravagant value like homosexual marriage? We do not need this European lapse from virtue at all.

Today there is a more important task for Russia and for a number of other countries – members of the Council of Europe – to intensify improvement of their contractual-legal institutions and instruments in order to harmonise their laws with international legislation and to deepen economic co-operation.