

# **Risks and Challenges: EU Enlargement and Russia**

Selected articles from Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty

---

## **B O R D E R   I S S U E S**

---

**RFE/RL Newsline  
Volume 8 Number 4  
Thursday, 8 January 2004**

### **ESTONIA SEEKS CASTIGATION OF RUSSIAN POLICY BY EUROPARLIAMENT**

Estonia's observer in the European Parliament, the ruling Res Publica party's Eiki Berg, has proposed amendments to reports on the EU's relations with Russia and the Transcaucasus, BNS reported on 7 January. He said the report on Russia must draw attention to Moscow's reluctance to apply its Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU to acceding member states, thus contradicting the underlying principles of the accord. Russia should also be urged to ratify border agreements with Estonia and Latvia, Berg said. Noting the need "for developing closer contractual ties with Transcaucasus states that suffer from crises typical of transition societies and may thus become a threat to European stability," Berg said that "the European Union must provide those states with strong incentives to carry out democratization processes and economic reforms." His amendments will be put to a vote in the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee in the last week of January and then at the February session. SG

Copyright (c) 2004. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036. <http://www.rferl.org>

**RFE/RL Newsline  
Volume 8 Number 12  
Wednesday, 21 January 2004**

### **RUSSIA ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BORDER CROSSING TO ESTONIA**

A Russian border representative on 20 January informed the Estonian Border Guard that the border checkpoint on the Ivangorod side of the Narva-Ivangorod pedestrian bridge will temporarily be closed as of 23 January, BNS reported. The Russian Military Prosecutor's Office ordered the checkpoint closed because its lack of customs checks does not conform to Russian law. Estonian border officials called for a postponement of the decision, arguing that it will place an extra burden on its checkpoint on the Narva highway, resulting in delays for the thousands of inhabitants who travel between the two cities every day. SG

Copyright (c) 2004. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036. <http://www.rferl.org>

**RFE/RL Newsline**  
**Volume 8 Number 38**  
**Friday, 27 February 2004**

## **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT URGES RUSSIA TO SIGN BORDER TREATIES WITH ESTONIA, LATVIA**

The European Parliament on 26 February passed a recommendation to the EU's Council of Ministers that lists a number of issues that Russia should resolve to facilitate good-neighborly relations, BNS reported. The recommendation is expected to be taken into consideration in March, when the EU summit discusses future relations between the EU and Russia. "Russia must understand that the EU no longer intends to take part in any negotiations over signing and ratifying the border treaty with Latvia and Estonia," Europarlamentarian Bastian Belder (the Netherlands) said. "The negotiation stage is over and Russia should act as a respectful partner and immediately approve the mentioned treaties." Belder also said that "I believe that Latvia and Estonia have implemented all the Copenhagen criteria, including protection of minorities." The recommendation called on Russia to accept extending the EU-Russian Partnership and Cooperation Agreement when the 10 acceding states join the union on 1 May. SG

Copyright (c) 2004. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036. <http://www.rferl.org>

**RFE/RL Newsline**  
**Volume 8 Number 68**  
**Tuesday, 13 April 2004**

## **PUTIN TELLS FORMER ESTONIAN PRIME MINISTER BORDER TREATY NECESSARY**

Russian President Vladimir Putin told Mart Laar during a nearly hour-long conversation in Moscow on 9 April that Russia should sign a border treaty with Estonia, BNS reported the next day. The talks took place in the context of the international conference "A Liberal Agenda for the New Century: A Global Perspective" organized by the U.S.-based Cato Institute in cooperation with the Institute of Economic Analysis and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. Laar told BNS that Putin mentioned that relations between Russia and Estonia have been steadily improving of late and while talking about the situation of Russians living in Estonia did not use the word "discrimination." Laar also said that they briefly talked about their countries' bilateral relations after Estonia becomes a member of the European Union. SG

Copyright (c) 2004. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036. <http://www.rferl.org>

**RFE/RL Newsline**  
**Volume 8 Number 74**  
**Wednesday, 21 April 2004**

## **ITALIAN PRESIDENT BACKS ESTONIA'S BID FOR EU BORDER AGENCY**

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi told his Estonian counterpart Arnold Ruutel in Tallinn on 20 April that he will support Estonia's efforts to have the headquarters of the new EU border-control agency located on its territory, BNS reported. The EU decided to establish the new agency in November 2003 and its main task will be to work out and implement common border-control principles and surveillance measures. The agency will help member states to train border guards, but there are no plans to create an EU-wide border-guard force and the actual guarding will be left to each member state. Other states expressing interest in hosting the agency's headquarters are Hungary, Malta, Poland, and Slovenia. The two presidents also discussed their countries' cooperation both bilaterally and within the EU. SG

Copyright (c) 2004. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036. <http://www.rferl.org>