



RUSSIA – EUROPEAN UNION: POTENTIAL FOR PARTNERSHIP

International Conference



General partner: LUKOIL

March 21, 2013

Lotte Hotel Moscow

8 bld. 2, Novinskiy Blvd, Moscow



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Moscow, March 21, 2013, Lotte Hotel Moscow

10:00-10:30 Registration

10:45-11:00 Opening of the conference

11:00-12:45 Session 1
GENERAL PARAMETERS OF THE RUSSIA – EU PARTNERSHIP

***Speech by* Dmitry A. MEDVEDEV**, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

***Speech by* José Manuel BARROSO**, President of the European Commission

Discussion Participants:

François FILLON, Prime Minister of France (2007-2012)

Wolfgang SCHÜSSEL, Federal Chancellor of Austria (2000-2007)

Javier SOLANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain (1992-1995), EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (1999-2009)

Paavo LIPPONEN, Prime Minister of Finland (1995-2003)

Włodzimierz CIMOSZEWICZ, Prime Minister of Poland (1996-1997)

Franco FRATTINI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy (2002-2004, 2008-2011), Vice President of the European Commission (2004-2008)

Volker RUEHE, Federal Minister of Defence of Germany (1992-1998)

Moderator: Igor S. IVANOV, President, Russian International Affairs Council, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Issues for discussion:

- Is there a possibility to build a common European space without separation lines: view from Moscow and Brussels?
- Can a Greater Europe become an integrated and independent actor in the 21st century's polycentric world? Does this meet long-term interests of Russia and the EU?
- Immediate steps to be taken in strengthening the political and economic partnership between Russia and the EU.

12:45-13:00 Coffee Break

13:00-14:45 Session 2
ECONOMIC PARAMETERS OF THE RUSSIA-EU PARTNERSHIP

Discussion Participants:

Anatoly B. CHUBAIS, Chairman of the RUSNANO Executive Board

Vagit Yu. ALEKPEROV, President of OAO LUKOIL

Wolfgang SCHÜSSEL, Federal Chancellor of Austria (2000-2007)

Reiner HARTMANN, Chairman of the Executive Board, Association of European Business in Russia

Isaac SHEPS, Senior Vice President Eastern Europe and CEO in Russia Calsberg Breweries A/S

Marc Ladreit de LACHARRIERE, Chair and CEO of Fimalac S.A.

Moderator: Alexander A. DYNKIN, Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations at the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO), Member of the Russian Academy of Science

Issues for discussion:

- Common economic space from the Pacific to the Atlantic:

what is required to achieve this goal?

- What does business expect from the new Russia-EU Agreement?
- Russia's membership in the WTO: new opportunities for Russian business in Europe and European business in Russia.
- Trends in the development of the European energy market: views from Moscow and Brussels.
- What investment projects can enhance the Russia-EU cooperation?

15:00-16:00 LUNCH

16:15-18:00 Session 3
EURASIAN INTEGRATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE RUSSIA-EU PARTNERSHIP

Discussion Participants:

Andrei A. SLEPNEV, Trade Minister, Eurasian Economic Commission

Andrey I. DENISOV, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Oleg M. BUDARGIN, Member of the Board of Directors of Federal Grid Company of Unified Energy System

Alexey A. MORDASHOV, CEO of OAO Severstal

Libor ROUCEK, Vice president of the Socialist and Democrat Group in the European Parliament

Rachida DATI, member of the European Parliament, Mayor of the 7th arrondissement of Paris

Reiner HARTMANN, Chairman of the Executive Board, Association of European Business in Russia

René NYBERG, CEO of the East Office of Finnish Industries, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Finland to Russia (2000-2004)

Adrian van den HOVEN, Deputy Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE

***Moderator:* Igor Yu. YURGENS**, Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Contemporary Development Foundation, Vice President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

Issues for discussion:

- Integration processes in Eurasia: goals and prospects.
- Eurasian integration in a multilateral trade environment (WTO).
- Compatibility of integration processes in Europe and Eurasia.

18:30-19:30 DINNER

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The Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), acting in conjunction with the World Economy and International Relations Institute (IMEMO), Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP), is organizing the **international conference “Russia - European Union: Potential for Partnership”** scheduled to take place in Moscow on March 21, 2013, Lotte Hotel Moscow.

The Russian Government supports the conference. Top officials of federal ministries and departments in charge of various areas of interaction with the European Union, diplomats, members of the academia, leading figures in the Russian business community, and experts will take part in its work. High-level foreign guests are expected to attend the conference.

A series of specific issues related to cooperation between Russia and the European Union will be addressed at the conference, such as:

- prospects for a new Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation with the EU;
- a review of preliminary results of the implementation of the “four spaces” concept;
- a review of various dimensions of relations between Russia and the European Union, and discussion of long-term prospects of these relations;
- removing obstacles to direct investment by EU countries in Russia and by Russia in EU countries;
- increasing mobility in education and science;
- coordinating migration strategies of Russia and the European Union, and so forth.

For all the significance of positive shifts achieved in relations between Russia and the EU in recent years, it is clear that the present level of cooperation is below the two parties’ potential.

Spring 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of accords between Russia and the European Union on creating four “common spaces” within the framework of the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation. However, the efforts to implement the Road Maps intended as short- and mid-term instruments to realize the four “common spaces” have run into numerous obstacles.

Despite of the complexities in Russia’s relations with the European Union, it is the European dimension that remains the country’s top priority when it comes to the economy, science and technology. EU countries account for half of Russia’s total trade turnover, and three-quarters of all direct foreign investment in Russia. Russia in turn has invested more in Europe than the other BRICS countries all combined. Equally important is the fact that there is no cultural or civilizational incompatibility between Russia and EU countries and any differences in practical matters can be resolved through compromise. Whatever the uncertainties in the internal processes of Russia’s development, it is fair to state that Russian society is becoming increasingly Europeanized - in the way of life, expectations and values.

It appears that objective prerequisites have taken shape for implementation of a long-term project to build a “Greater Europe.” This implies an harmonious combination of the economic, scientific, technological, and social potentials of the EU and the Russian Federation, and, in the long run, of the entire Eurasian integration space.