



Association
of European
Businesses

AEB | SME Committee

**Hidden Champions. Success Stories of European
SMEs in Russia. The Swiss Case**

Open Committee Meeting, 18.02.2019

Agenda | 18.02.2019

- 16:00** **Welcome Address**
Lorenz Widmer, Head, Swiss Business Hub Russia
- 16:10** **Update on Regulatory, Lobbying, Committee Agenda**
Tadzio Schilling, Chairman SME Committee
- 16:30** **SME Success Stories in Russia**
- Thomas Bihrer, CFO, Lindt & Sprüngli
 - Mikhail Yakovets, CEO, Fischer Spindle Technology
- 17:10** **Hurdles for Foreign SMEs in Russia**
Elena Balashova, GM, Most Service
- 17:30** **Q&A, Discussion, Networking**

SME Topics | Regulatory Update

Topic	Date	Source
Promotion of SME and individual entrepreneurship (KPIs: share in GDP 40%, share in employment from 19 mn to 25 mn)	07.05.2018	May Decrees
<p>Ministry of Economic Development suggestions for SME support measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ inclusion of additional banks into the subsidized credit program 6,5" ▶ special education programs for farmers ▶ introduction of „one window“ principle for SMEs for state interactions 	22.05.2018	Kommersant
Program „6,5“ operated by CBR & CSME (KMSP) will expire in 2018; subsidized credit program by Ministry of Economic Development will continue at 6,5% (volume: RUB 1,4 bn)	19.07.2018	Izvestia
<p>Bill updating Law N 209-FZ (24.07.2007) by abolishing limitations of foreign companies in the statutory capital of SMEs adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ applies only to SMEs according to RU definition (max 250 employees, max RUB 2 bn turnover) ▶ allows SMEs held by foreign SMEs (s. above) to benefit from special SME incentives ▶ does not apply to SMEs registered in offshore locations ▶ restrictions for SMEs held by bigger foreign entities remain in force 	03.08.2018	Duma

SME Topics | Regulatory Update

Topic	Date	Source
<p>MED national project for the development of SMEs focuses on 5 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ improvement of business environment for SMEs ▶ widening of access to preferential loans ▶ acceleration ▶ support for individual farmers ▶ popularization of entrepreneurship 	25.09.2018	MED
<p>State program of SME loans at preferential interest rates 2019-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ max 8,5% interest rate ▶ preferential loans RUB 3 mn – 1 bn ▶ total volume RUB 10 tr, 2019-2024 ▶ max period of 10 y ▶ enlarged list of authorized banks 	24.12.2018	MED
<p>Special Moscow fund to guarantee letters of credit for SMEs</p>	07.02.2019	Moscow Gov

Planning | Committee Activities

Activities	Format	Priority	Date, Status
Committee Meeting #18-1	Regular Committee Meeting	Informing	25.06.18
Participation in "Cooperation without Frontiers"	Speaker	Lobbying	cancelled
Committee Meeting #18-2	Regular Committee Meeting with MoB Paul Bruck	Informing	19.09.18
AmCham Business Fair 2018 (together with AEB)	Partner event, SME Committee members invited	Connecting	31.10.18
Participation in "Open Innovations"	Seminar	Promoting	15.-17.10.18
AEB Day in Krasnodar	Participation in AEB Day and Regional FIAC	Connecting	cancelled
MED Conference in Khabarovsk	Conference	Promoting	06.12.18
Participation in "Gaidar Forum"	Seminar	Promoting	15.-16.01.19
Committee Meeting #19-1: Success Stories of European SMEs. Swiss Case in cooperation with the SBH	Open Committee Meeting	Informing, Promoting	18.02.19
Committee Meeting #19-2 with KMSP at EY	Open Committee Meeting	Informing	12.03.19
Event on Business Climate for SMEs in Russia at EU Delegation	Open Committee Event	Informing	09.04.19
Committee Meeting #19-3: Success Stories of European SMEs. Swiss Case in cooperation with the SBH	Open Committee Meeting	Informing, Promoting	23.04.19



Planning | Voting on Committee Activities

Question	Y	N
Should the committee continue the "Hidden Champions" Series?		
Do you approve the planned activities for 1H19 (to be updated)?		
Should the Committee engage in a dialogue with the MED on the National Project for SME Development?		
Are there any issues that should be included in the AEB / Committee lobbying workstream?		