

**ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPEAN BUSINESSES**



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**Moscow
November 26, 2013**

PRESS-RELEASE

Briefing by EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

On 26 November 2013, the AEB had an honor to hold a Briefing by EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn. The event was dedicated to the opportunities for Russian organizations and companies to participate in Horizon 2020. The briefing was chaired by Reiner Hartmann, AEB Board Chairman and Frank Schauff, AEB CEO.

The event provided the AEB members with a unique opportunity to get first-hand information on the financial instrument of EU Innovation policy, Horizon 2020. Special focus was made on the opportunities for companies operating in Russia to participate in Horizon 2020 and in its projects.

In addition, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn briefed on the goals and role of the EU-Russia Year of Science 2014 and the role of the State in public-private partnerships in the area Research and Development.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn was appointed the European Commissioner with responsibility for Research, Innovation and Science in February 2010. Since then, she has spearheaded the development of the Innovation Union and the proposals for the new EU research and innovation program, Horizon 2020. Before that, she was a member of the European Court of Auditors, a member of the Irish Parliament as well as she served in the Irish Government as Minister for European Union affairs, Minister for Tourism, Transport and Telecommunication and as the Irish Minister for Justice.

Reiner Hartmann, AEB Board Chairman emphasized: *“The Association of European Businesses is very proud to be part of the organization and implementation process of the EU-Russia Year of Science 2014 and we will do our best to promote this EU-Russia initiative. The AEB has committed itself to supporting the Partnership for Modernisation initiative from its very beginning. We believe that the European businesses should be one of the motors of the Russian modernization process.”*

Frank Schauff, AEB CEO, noted that: *“It is very important to use the experience of the European Union in developing the Law on the public-private partnerships in Russia, which is now under consideration in the State Duma”.*

*For more information, please contact AEB Communications Manager/Press Secretary
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