



The AEB North-Western Regional Committee Official open meeting:

***“Infrastructure development of St.
Petersburg and the Leningrad region”***

30 November 2011



Dr. Christoph C. Dengler,
***Chairman of the North-Western Regional
Committee***

**AEB in the North-Western
region**



What is the AEB?

An independent, non-commercial organization based in Russia.

established in 1995 on the initiative of several European companies, Ambassadors of EU member states and the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation

Mission: to promote the interests of its members by supporting them in doing business with and in Russia.

More than 600 members, mostly European companies, of which 100 operate in the North-West of Russia



AEB in the North-West

- At the AGM in April 2009 a questionnaire was distributed to all present AEB members inviting suggestions of Russian cities to short-list for AEB regional expansion
- AEB members meeting on February 11, 2010: Foundation of AEB North-Western Regional Committee in St. Petersburg
- Elections of the AEB meeting in March 2010: Election of the Steering Group of the AEB North-Western Regional Committee
- Regular meeting of said Regional Committee
- In May 2010 first Open Committee Meeting for AEB members and non-members
- European and Russian Business Forum on September 23 – 25, 2010
- Opening of the AEB Regional office in St. Petersburg in 2011

Steering Group of North-Western Regional Committee



**Dr. Christoph
DENGLER**
Chairman
Germany



**Olga
LITVINOVA**
Deputy Chairman
Russian Federation



**Petri
VUORIO**
Finland



**Alexander
TANITSCHEW**
Russian Federation



**Manfred
JANOSCHKA**
Germany



**Bernhard
WEIDINGER**
Austria



**Glenn
KOLLEENY**
USA



Benefits of being an AEB member

- EU largest business group trading with Russia
- One membership fee which allows participation in AEB activities in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other regions
- First-hand information at high-profile briefings by EU and Russian officials
- Up-to-date information on the AEB website and in publications, such as AEB business quarterly etc.
- Monthly E-Newsletter
- Statistics on sales of cars, agricultural machinery, construction equipment and other industrial goods
- One window procedure for work and visa permits including consultation
- Customs and taxation hotline
- Discounts on hotels, restaurants, cars etc. within AEB loyalty program
- Etc.

Expected regional tasks

- Information service on companies present in the region and investment projects
- Establishing information exchange with EU consul generals
- Establishing and maintaining a strong working relationship with Regional and local administrations, organizing meetings with respective authorities
- Organization of professional seminars and meetings
- Organization of social networking events
- Market studies
- Providing AEB management with reliable information about relevant Regional issues
- Others...



EU Cooperation in N-W Russia

- Close cooperation with EU Delegation to Russia and EU General Consulates in St Petersburg
- Main purpose
 - To build coordinated information flow and communication system between the AEB North-West, EU General Consulates of St Petersburg and EU Delegation in Russia.
- Active communication
 - Regular meetings and dialogue between the EU General Consulates of SPb, European Union's Delegation to Russia and representatives of AEB N-W Regional Committee
 - Topics: AEB member company feedback in N-W Russia, local and federal level negotiation processes with authorities, new working permit process, customs union, anti-corruption plan etc.
- Voice of European Businesses
 - Collection of needs and opinions of the EU business sector in N-W Russia to be utilized.
 - AEB N-W Regional Committee welcomes all the business environment related input of member companies.



Thank you very much
for your attention!