

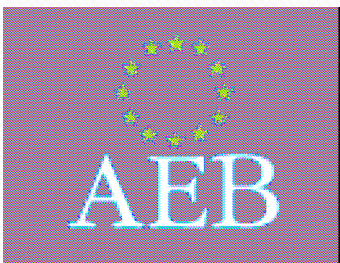
A View from Outside

EU-Russia relations and
the Partnership for Modernisation

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The Partnership for modernisation: a new dynamic in EU-Russia relations?

- First strategic initiative in EU-Russia relations since the mid-2000's:
 - Mid-2000's : 'cold peace' scenario in EU-Russia partnership
 - 2008: deterioration of EU-Russia relations over the conflict with Georgia
 - Climate more propitious to building a constructive dialogue:
 - Towards a convergence of positions among EU Member States vis-à-vis Russia (Polish-Russian *rapprochement*)
 - Economic crisis: enhanced need for cooperation
- *A window of opportunity for giving a new impetus to a partnership that was said to be stalling*

What is the PfM about?

- « A flexible framework for promoting reform, enhancing growth and raising competitiveness »
- Organised around sectoral dialogues
- Broad list of priority areas:
 - expanding opportunities for investment in key sectors driving growth and innovation,
 - enhancing bilateral trade,
 - promoting small and medium sized enterprises,
 - promoting alignment of technical regulations and standards,
 - improving transport,
 - promoting a sustainable low-carbon economy and energy efficiency,
 - enhancing co-operation in innovation, research and development,
 - ensuring the effective functioning of the judiciary,
 - strengthening the fight against corruption
 - promoting people-to-people links.

A new strategic vision for EU-Russia relations?

- Strong interdependence and complementarity
- No real alternative to partnership and no real alternative partners in the modernisation process
- Attempt to shape and to develop positively EU-Russia interdependence: 'win-win cooperation'



...or a new empty shell in EU-Russia relations?

- Different prioritisation of issue areas identified in the Road Maps:
 - EU: stable and transparent market rules (energy sector; support to Russia's WTO accession)
 - Russia: modernisation, visa-free regime, energy
 - Different understandings of modernisation?
 - Modernisation as liberalisation
 - Modernisation as innovation
- ⇒ To what extent are EU and Russian views compatible with each other?



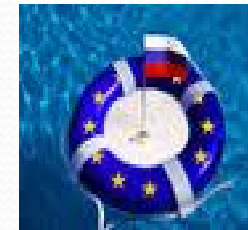
A first assessment

- Activities have been jointly agreed upon in those areas which are not politically sensitive:
 - expanding opportunities for investment,
 - strengthening cooperation and exchanging best practices on energy efficiency,
 - identifying technical regulations for aligning Russian and EU standards
- No substantial progress in those areas which are considered highly sensitive for either partner:
 - Russian proposal to liberalise the visa regime
 - EU proposals to support judicial reform and to strengthen the dialogue with civil society

EU-Russia: a possible way forward

- Adopt a **functional approach** and focus on depoliticised issues as a first step, including energy efficiency, technical standards, research and development, education cooperation, health....
- Important factors for success (preconditions)
 - Stable and predictable regulatory framework in Russia
 - Prospect of a visa-free regime (on a reciprocal basis)
 - Involve grassroots actors as much as possible (bottom-up process)

Conclusive thoughts



On partnership...

- Needed by both sides (interdependence)
- Partnership on the basis of **equality and reciprocity**
- Russia's modernisation process is **owned** by Russia (choices to be made)
- In this context, **the EU should accompany change** rather than guiding it

On progress and results...

- Evolving partners in a fast-changing world
- A long-term and incremental process which entails confidence-building efforts from both sides



Спасибо за внимание!

Thank you for your
attention!