

## PRESS RELEASE

**The Fourth Northern Dimension Forum will take place in St. Petersburg, Russia on April 4th 2013. The Northern Dimension Business Council and the Association of European Businesses will act as co-organisers of the Forum.**

The Fourth Northern Dimension Forum will be held on April 4th, 2013 in the northern capital of Russia - St. Petersburg. The aim of the Forum is to contribute to the development of the dialogue between Russian and European companies, as well as representatives of international non-governmental organisations, interested in a cooperation on the territory of the participating countries.

This year's Forum will be devoted to important issues associated with deepening trade and economic cooperation and moving from predominantly trade activity to investment in various sectors of the national economies within the Northern Dimension. Special attention will be paid to the regions of the North-Western Federal District of the Russian Federation and neighbouring European regions.

Several high ranking Russian and European government officials and decision makers have confirmed their participation as speakers, including Alexey Mordashov, General Director of JSC "Severstal"; Co-chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council; Mikael Aro, President and CEO, VR-Group, Co-chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council; Aleksey Meshkov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation; Alexey Likhachev, Deputy Minister, RF Ministry of Economic Development; Paavo Lipponen, Prime Minister of Finland (1995-2003), Independent consultant, Nord Stream; Andrey Slepnev, Minister for Trade and Member of Board of Eurasian Economic Commission; Sergey Zimin, Investment Ombudsman in the North-Western Federal District; Peter Balas, Deputy General Director, DG Trade, European Commission; Reiner Hartmann, Chairman of the Board, Association of European Businesses (AEB), to name but a few.

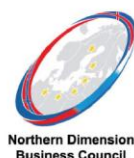
The Forum will feature round tables devoted to industries and sector partnerships – *electric power and energy saving, ecology and environmental protection, vocational education and training, transport, logistics and customs policy, health and pharmaceuticals, wood processing industry, creative industry, engineering and automotive components*. The seminar on project preparation and financing, which is organized in cooperation with Vnesheconombank, will be held with the participation of the Investment Ombudsman in the North-Western Federal District Sergey Zimin.

The chairpersons of the Northern Dimension Business Council Alexey Mordashov, General Director of JSC "Severstal", Co-chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council Mikael Aro, President and CEO, VR-Group and working groups co-chairpersons will report on discussion results and present working plans for the year to come.

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Organizers:



### **About The Northern Dimension of Business Council (NDBC)**

*The initiative to create Northern Dimension Business Council (NDBC) was approved on November 12, 2009 in Stockholm at the meeting of senior officials of countries belonging to the policy of Northern Dimension (ND). NDBC is headed by two co-chairmen: Alexey Mordashov, CEO of JSC Severstal from the Russian side and Tapio Kuula, President and CEO of Fortum Corporation (Finland) from the European side.*

*Activities of the NDBC contribute to the Russia-EU modernization partnership; encourage investments in priority sectors such as medicine and biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, energy efficiency, nanotechnology, information technology, microelectronics, mechanical engineering, ecology, technology of production and transportation of mineral resources; develop the bilateral dialogue to improve trade policies.*

*The Program of Socio-economic development of North-West of Russia until 2020 was presented during the Second Northern Dimension Forum, including 350 investment projects. All of them are not only a good basis for attracting investments in the North-West Federal District, but also to address the complex development of Northern Europe.*

### **About the Association of European Businesses (AEB)**

*Founded in 1995, the Association of European Businesses (AEB) is an independent non profit organisation representing over 600 companies from Europe and Russia. Our members range from large multi-national corporations to SMEs. They are united by their commitment to forging stronger economic ties between the EU and Russia as well as improving the investment climate in Russia.*

*The AEB conducts lobbying activities through 40 committees and working groups, representing various industries and sectors, including Energy, Customs & Transport, Airlines, Legal, Taxation and Banking. The AEB also has two regional branches in: Saint Petersburg and Krasnodar.*

*The committees work closely with the European and Russian authorities and submit amendments to draft laws.*

*The AEB also offers information support to the European business community through its website and publications, press campaigns, surveys, legislative and business alerts.*

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Organizers:

