



Post release

Moscow
4 April 2019

The 10th Northern Dimension Forum has been held in Saint-Petersburg

The Jubilee 10th Northern Dimension Forum was held on **4 April 2019** in Saint Petersburg, at the Sokos Hotel Palace Bridge and the Graduate School of Management, SPbU. More than 200 delegates attended the event. It was chaired by Alexey Mordashov, Chairman of the Board of Directors PAO "Severstal"; Co-Chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council and Rolf Jansson, President and CEO, VR Group; Co-Chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council (NDBC).

This year the Northern Dimension Forum was held on the topic of "Sustainable development in the era of global change: growth factors and (un)known challenges."

Russian and international experts, representatives of regional authorities, and heads of major European companies discussed which challenges the global political, economic and public spheres would face in 2019, is it possible in these circumstances to prevent a crisis of trust between partners, and what impact such events would have on the Northern Dimension region.

Alexey Mordashov, Chairman of PAO Severstal, Co-chairman of Northern Dimension Business Council:

"I am pleased to note that the Northern Dimension Forum has become a regular communications platform between our countries, with representatives of business, political establishment and civil society. Although the forum was originally focused on the business agenda, recently we have increasingly focused on future trends, new global challenges we face and how we might address them. Uncertainty is growing with the rapid development of digital technologies and artificial intelligence. We will meet and adapt to these challenges through a commitment to our values, the sustainable development of society and an openness to change".

Rolf Jansson, President and CEO, VR Group; Co-Chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council (NDBC):

"Over the past 10 years, significant progress has been achieved in all areas of the Northern Dimension partnership. We have a lot to celebrate, but what is even more important we have clear common vision of the prospect and have the ability, desire and will to make the future better".

At the forum presentations were made by senior representatives of European and Russian ministries and departments, and company executives. They included: Vadim Potomskiy, Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the North-West Federal District; Alexander Grushko, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; Paavo Lipponen, Prime Minister of Finland (1995-2003); Wolfgang Clement, Former Federal Minister of Economy and Labor,

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Former Prime Minister of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany); Andrey Sharonov, President, Moscow Skolkovo Management School; Konstantin Krotov, Head of School, Graduate School of Management, SPbU and others.

The forum was also attended by representatives of regional authorities, such as Yuri Kalabin, Chairman of the Committee for Industrial Policy and Innovations, City Administration of Saint Petersburg and Oleg Kuvshinnikov, Governor, Vologda Region.

Russian and international experts and executives from large companies were exchanging their proposals on development prospects in the Northern Dimension countries, along with ideas to increase the efficiency of their economies.

Philippe Pegorier, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Association of European Businesses (AEB):

"The Forum is largely devoted to growth factors that contribute to the sustainable development of the region in a period of global changes. Among the most important factors I would mention connectivity on the Eurasian continent. The more connected we are, the more opportunities we have – to find common political solutions and to bring economic prosperity to the region. Connectivity is maintained through networks: transport, electronic, energy... Finally, connectivity has an obvious human dimension: from cooperation in education, research and innovation to travel and tourism. Connectivity serves and facilitates human interaction".

Frank Schauff, AEB CEO:

"Throughout its ten-year history, the Forum remains one of the most important platforms for the interaction of government, business and civil society in the countries of the Northern Dimension. We are pleased that this year the participants were able to share their vision regarding the prospects of the Northern Dimension countries in the field of creating regional models of responding to global challenges."

After the general plenary session, a series of round tables will be held within the framework of various working groups of the Northern Dimension Business Council in cooperation with the Graduate School of Management at St. Petersburg State University.

The forum organizers have set the date of the XI Northern Dimension Forum: it will be on April 02, 2020, in St. Petersburg.

About the Northern Dimension Business Council (NDBC)

At a meeting of Northern Dimension senior officials and politicians on 12 November 2009 in Stockholm, the initiative to establish and determine the concept of the NDBC was approved. The NDBC is co-

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chaired by Rolf Jansson, President and CEO, VR Group, and Alexey Mordashov, Chairman of the Board of Directors PAO "Severstal."

The aim of the initiative is to involve companies in the policies of the Northern Dimension, so that these companies gain a competitive advantage from their active participation in the NDBC.

The NDBC aims to facilitate partnerships to enable modernisation (EU-Russia), to encourage investment in priority sectors such as medicine and biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, energy, nanotechnology, IT and microelectronics, mechanical engineering, shipbuilding, mining and mineral resources transportation technology, etc., and to develop bilateral dialogue with a view to improving trade policy and advice on planning and implementing joint ventures.

The bulk of the practical work of the NDBC is carried out within the working groups headed by the co-chairs.

About the Association of European Businesses (AEB)

The Association of European Businesses (established in 1995) is the main representation of foreign investors in Russia. It is an independent non-commercial organisation, that represents and promotes the interests of European companies conducting business in and with the Russian Federation. The AEB members are multinational corporations and small and medium-sized businesses. They all share a commitment to strengthening economic ties between the EU and Russia, as well as the desire to improve the investment climate of the Russian Federation.

The AEB includes more than 60 committees and subcommittees and working groups that are engaged in lobbying on a wide range of issues in various business areas including energy, transport and customs, air travel, legislation, taxation, banking, real estate, the production of crop protection products and many others. These committees work closely with the European and Russian authorities, and provide comments and suggested changes to the draft laws of the Russian Federation.

The AEB provides information support for its members through its website, printed publications, media campaigns, and distributes reviews and releases about the current events in the legal and business fields.

For more information, please contact press secretary Ekaterina Mukhina by email: em@aebrus.ru or by phone: +7 (495) 234 27 64 ext. 136.

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