



Association
of European
Businesses

OPEN INNOVATIONS FORUM 2019

SESSION: **BUSINESS DIALOGUE "RUSSIA-EUROPE"**

EVENT PARTNER: **ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN BUSINESSES**

DATE AND VENUE: **21 October 2019** (time tbc), **Skolkovo Innovation Centre**, Moscow

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

- **European manufacturing and digital technologies for sustainable development.**
- **Societal perspective of implementing new technologies.**
- **Digital technologies for sustainable development.**

CONCEPT:

Europe is known as a global socially-responsible technology leader. To transform the economy and to generate new and sustainable competitive advantages, the European business is transitioning to a low-carbon, more resource-efficient, circular economy. Digital devices, namely sensors, transmitting, data collecting and computing power units could drastically help to optimize manufacturing processes for the sake of environment and to reduce impact on climate change. This transition is not only an opportunity for businesses and citizens, but a necessity from environmental, economic and social perspectives to move towards a more productive, and sustainable economy. The digital industry strongly supports this transition and has already taken several steps to advance it (e.g. digital technologies enable driverless and connected cars as well as car-sharing services that contribute to reduce emissions from transport; in the energy sector, digital technologies improve the efficiency of power generation, distribution grids and utility operations; in mining digital technologies ensure fully automated, robotized manufacturing and mining).

Digitalization as a positive driver of the industrial revolution, also creates a lot of concerns about impact on unemployment, wealth stratification, and rapid societal changes. Modern technologies accelerate exploitation of the natural sources. Most of those technologies are developed at the high-density population industrialised areas and countries to satisfy the needs of those societies.

However, sustainable development of the Russian regions is facing other realities: huge distances between towns, very low population density (40% of Russian territory with just about 3,2 mln people), limited manufacturing presence, extreme labor shortage. The case of sustainable development of the Far East and the Far North regions is really unique. These are among the most vulnerable regions in the world which badly need unique technologies to service remote facilities, provide distant learning and healthcare. To satisfy local needs by means of limited local resources is possible only through the use of digital technologies often elaborated or adapted for local conditions.

How could digitalization contribute to the humanitarian and sustainable development agenda? What state support and legislative changes would be needed to start implementing digital technologies to adapt best sustainable practices?

We invite you to discuss the examples of possible solutions on reduction of pollution and water consumption, use less damaging industrial, mining, agricultural practices and better recycling technologies, adopt a digital manufacturing strategy determining the priorities towards sustainability and decarbonization in key industrial sectors of economy.

SESSION STRUCTURE

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Michael Akim, Chairman of the AEB Working Group on Modernisation and Innovations, Vice-President, ABB Russia (moderator)

Frank Schauff, AEB CEO (tbc)

2. DISCUSSION PANEL

Topic:

"THE TERRITORY OF HIGH-TECH COOPERATION: PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN COMPANIES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

Sub-topics:

- renewable energy prospects;
- environmental objectives of the modernisation of traditional energy sector in Russia;
- state support programs;
- ecological transport;
- innovative European businesses – drivers for success;
- prospects for the development of European advanced technologies in Russia and for Russia.

Q & A session

3. WRAP-UP

Based on the business dialogue results, it is planned to determine the prospects for implementation of the high-tech industries' projects in the regions of Russia; to identify the barriers that European innovative business oriented companies experience; to discuss the potential and measures for building up and developing efficient inter-regional cooperation in the spheres of alternative energy, telemedicine, IT.