



AEB Business Mission to Brussels 22-23 March 2017

On 22-23 March 2017, the Board of the Association of European Businesses visited Brussels in order to discuss EU-Russia economic relations with European policy-makers, more particularly with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service, the Russian ambassador to the European Union as well as European partner associations according to the following program:

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2017		
09:15 – 10:00	Mr. Kristian HEDBERG , Deputy Head of Cabinet of Ms. Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Mr. Edward BANNERMAN , Member of Cabinet of Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President for Growth, Jobs, Investment and Competitiveness, European Commission	Berlaymont building, 200 rue de la loi
11:00 – 12:00	Mr. Carlo CORAZZA , Deputy Head of Cabinet of Mr. Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament and Ms. Urszula MOJKOWSKA , Diplomatic adviser	European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz
12:30 – 13:30	Mr. Elmar BROK , Former chair and as of 23 January 2017 Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament	European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz, Room ASP 5F385
15:30 – 16:15	Ms. Ioana DIACONESCU , Member of cabinet of Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, Mr. Pierre Moscovici	Berlaymont building, 200 rue de la Loi
16:30 – 17:00	Ms. Cecilia MALMSTRÖM , European Commissioner for Trade	Berlaymont building, 200 rue de la Loi
THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2017		
08:30 – 09:45	Committee on International Trade (INTA) Monitoring Group for Russia, Chair: Hannu TAKKULA , European Parliament	European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz, meeting room Altiero Spinelli A3E-3

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10:00 – 11:00	Mr. Knut FLECKENSTEIN , Vice-Chair, Group of the Progressive Alliance of the Socialists and Democrats	European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz
10:45 – 11:30	Mr. Dominique RISTORI , Director-General for Energy (DG ENER), European Commission	DG ENER, 24 rue de Mot
11:30 – 12:30	Mr. Markus BEYRER , Director-General BUSINESSEUROPE Ms. Luisa SANTOS , Head of the International Affairs Department BUSINESSEUROPE	168, Avenue de Cortenbergh
13:30 – 14:15	Mr. Jerzy BUZEK , Chair Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), European Parliament	ASP entrance, European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz, A3E-3, at 13:10
16:30 – 17:30	Mr. Thomas MAYR-HARTING , Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia of the European External Action Service	Rond Point Schuman 9A
18:00 – 19:00	Mr. Vladimir CHIZHOV , Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the EU	Boulevard du Regent 31-33

The AEB was represented by:

1. BALDISSEROTTO Filippo, Member of the AEB Board, Italcantieri LLC
2. BANTSEKINA, Olga, Deputy Chair of the AEB Board, Chief Representative, Coleman Services UK Ltd
3. BIGGIOGERA Cesare, Member of the AEB Board, CEO, Prysmian Group Russia
4. BRUCK Paul, Member of the AEB Board, General Manager, Most Service
5. CAMPBELL David, Member of the AEB Energy Committee, President, BP Russia (attended the meetings with Mr. Ristori, Mr. Hayr-Harting and Mr. Chizhov)
6. HELPPOLAINEN Teemu, Deputy Chair of the AEB Board, General Director, YIT
7. LIBEROV Alexander, First Deputy Chairman of the AEB Board, CFO, Siemens Russia
8. PEGORIER Philippe, Member of the AEB Board, President, Alstom Russia
9. RONDELEZ Marie Rondelez, EU Adviser, AEB
10. SAKULER Gerald Sakuler, AEB Member of the Board and Treasurer, individual Member
11. SCHAUFF Frank, Chief Executive Officer, AEB
12. STAERTZEL Thomas, AEB Chairman of the Board, General Director, Porsche Russland

Luis Portero, Head of Economic and Trade Section, Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation, joined the AEB delegation. Vygaudas Ušackas, European Union Ambassador to the Russian Federation attended the meeting with Commissioner Malmtröm.

During this traditional mission, Board members voiced to the European authorities the concerns of the European businesses with regard to the following issues:

- State of play of EU-Russia relations and EU Strategy towards the Russian Federation, in the wider geopolitical context;
- Opportunity for the EU to open a dialogue with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)
- Current economic situation and investment climate in Russia;
- Possible role and contribution of the European businesses in improving EU-Russia relations, possible areas of cooperation;

- Latest Russian government measures more particularly on import substitution and localisation, State Procurement, Procurement by state companies;
- Possible prolongation of financing of Technical Regulations projects

The AEB representatives stressed the importance of stability, welfare and peace on the European continent for European investors in Russia.

The AEB delegation advocated the need for a renewed EU strategy towards Russia and advocated a re-engagement of the European policy-makers vis-à-vis Russia on areas of mutual interest that are not falling under economic and financial sanctions. The AEB also recommended opening an official dialogue with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

The EU representatives made clear that the full implementation of the Minsk agreements is a key element for any substantial change in the relation with Russia.

The AEB accepted that sanctions are not lifted until Minsk 2 agreement is fulfilled but meanwhile it is important to show a mutual interest to restore the confidence and encourage effective dialogue between the EU and Russia.

The AEB Members can be assured that the AEB will stay in close contact with the EU bodies in Brussels and the EU Delegation in Moscow as well as our and EAEU Russian partners and promote the interests of its members.

We will certainly inform you about all significant future developments.