



Association
of European
Businesses

Press-release

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The Fifth Northern Dimension Forum will take place in St. Petersburg, Russia on April 3d, 2014. The Northern Dimension Business Council and the Association of European Businesses will act as co-organisers of the Forum.

The Fifth Northern Dimension Forum will be held on April 3d, 2014 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 cooperation on the territory of the participating countries.

This year's Forum will be devoted to important issues associated with increasing of future competitiveness of national economies within the Northern Dimension by using model of public-private partnership for development of regional infrastructure and vocational education. Traditionally, special attention will be paid to the regions of the North-Western Federal District of the Russian Federation and neighboring 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; Tapio Kuula, President and CEO, Fortum Corporation; Co-Chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council (NDBC); Vladimir Bulavin, Plenipotentiary Presidential Representative in the North Western Federal District; Esko Aho, Chairman Business Team for Russia; Prime Minister of Finland (1991-1995); Sven-Olov Carlsson, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the RF; Aleksey Meshkov, Deputy Minister, RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Sergey Belyakov, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Russian Federation; 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 – Electricity and Energy Efficiency, Ecology and Cleantech, Vocational Education and Training, Transport and Logistics, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Creative industry (together with the Northern Dimension Partnership for Culture). The seminar on export financing 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, and Tapio Kuula, President and CEO, Fortum Corporation; Co-Chairman of the Northern Dimension Business Council (NDBC), working groups co-chairpersons as well as the

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representatives of the Northern Dimension partnerships will report on discussion results and present working plans for the year to come.

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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 organization 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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