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Post - release

7th Moscow International Automotive Forum (IMAF 2016)

On 23 August 2016, the AEB in cooperation with the international exhibition operator ITEMF Expo held the 7th International Forum IMAF 2016 in Moscow. This year the topic of the forum was "The Russian automotive industry: breakpoint for revival".

AEB CEO Frank Schauff and Michael Johannes, Vice President Messe Frankfurt GmbH, Brand Manager Automechanika, made the opening remarks.

"Moscow International Automotive Forum is traditionally held during the exhibition MIMS Automechanika Moscow, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. On behalf of the Association of European Businesses, I am very pleased to congratulate the organiser on such a significant occasion! Automobile manufacturers are experiencing turbulent times. That is why it is very important to organise such forums nowadays. IMAF provides the participants with a great opportunity to establish face-to-face and productive dialogue with suppliers and the public authorities", — noted Frank Schauff.

"This forum has grown significantly in recent years and become the industry's main B2B event with speakers and delegates from the Russian automotive sector. At this difficult time we want to discuss what industry players can do to develop further? IMAF as a business event can bring you many valuable business contacts, new insights and support for your projects. I look forward to a long and fruitful working relationship that will be of mutual benefit to all", — added Michael Johannes.

Nicolas Maure, President AvtoVas, addressed the delegates for the first time after his designation at the plenary session: "Outlook for the Russian automotive industry: trends, forecasts, prospects". He talked about the company's future development and changes to the management line-up. Andrey Pankov, CEO Renault Russia also made a speech. He admitted that the automobile industry has huge potential for the development of key industrial exports from Russia.

"As a result of the work implemented on production localisation, we are able to export from Russia not only cars but also spare-parts and components. We have been successfully working in this field: since 2010 to CIS countries and since 2015 to far abroad", — said Andrey Pankov.

Among the speakers of the plenary session were: Kirill Epstein, Director of Automotive components Division, GAZ Group, Massimiliano Perri, Business Director, Iveco Russia, and Jaron Wiedmaier, General Director, Continental Tires and others. The experts evaluated the efficiency of support mechanisms initiated in the automobile industry by the government, summed up the preliminary results of the industry's progress in the first half-year of 2016, discussed the current situation on the market and whether it has yet reached bottom and if there are signs of growth on the horizon, and announced the companies long-term strategies and plans in the Russian market. For example, Jaron Wiedmaier noticed that the current economic difficulties are negatively affecting the Russian tyre market.

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“The main decrease was in the winter season of 2015-16. The main reason for this decline is that new car sales dropped more than 36% in 2015. Owing to the demand from Russian consumers, we are happy to launch three new winter products in the quality and budget segments” — said General Director of Continental Tires.

The afternoon sessions covered issues devoted to the analysis of the Russian automotive industry; the current measures and directions of government support for the automotive sector; discussions on projects and plans for production localisation in the Russian Federation.

The forum was followed by a special session of B2B meetings between representatives of automobile manufactures, buyers and suppliers.

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