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Post-release

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met members of the Association of European Businesses (AEB) on 31 October in Moscow at the Hotel Baltshug Kempinski.

Dr. Thomas Staertzel, Chairman of the AEB Board, opened the meeting with a welcome speech. He noted that European businesses are interested in working on the Russian market:

"Our Community remains strong and stable in Russia: Over the past 10 years, the European Union cumulated direct investment has amounted to 59% of the total volume of Foreign Direct Investments in Russia. The total trade turnover between Russia and the EU countries for the first seven months of 2017 represents 43 % of all Russia's foreign trade for that period".

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov delivered a speech in which he touched the issues of terrorism, sanctions, and relations between Russia and the European Union. The Minister noted that in the time of recovery and economic growth in Russia new opportunities are opening for foreign business, and Russian government is open to a dialogue with foreign investors:

"We continue to come for a long-term, self-valuable nature of relationship between Russia and the EU. Moreover, it depends on the terms both in the lives of our citizens and globally as well. I do believe that we should preserve the currently accumulated capital in the partnership between Europe and Russia. We are ready for that, and we shall continue to support European businessmen in their efforts to increase their presence in Russia and to participate in mutual beneficial projects with the Russian partners.

The briefing by Mr. Lavrov was followed by a Q&A session moderated by AEB CEO Dr. Frank Schauff. He noted that one of the main tasks for the AEB is to maintain an active dialogue between foreign investors and government officials. So the communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia is now particularly relevant:

"AEB has been working in Russia for more than 20 years, and lately we have been engaging even more closely with the Eurasian Economic Commission. I want to note that we have already reached mutual understanding in many areas, for example, in the issues of customs and technical regulation. We are also trying to convince the European authorities to intensify the dialogue with the Eurasian Economic Commission. "

AEB member company representatives received answers to their most pressing and important questions directly from the source.

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