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## **Pepeliaev Group announces opening of associated offices in China**

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Pepeliaev Group has launched a specialised practice group, known as the China Desk, that will provide legal assistance for Chinese investors in Russia. During the most recent business mission of delegates from Pepeliaev Group to China, it was announced that the firm is opening associated offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Pepeliaev Group's representative offices will operate in association with law firm China Window, which provides legal support for Russian businesses entering the Chinese market.

The extended delegation from Pepeliaev Group included Managing Partner Sergey Pepeliaev, Senior Partner Rustem Ahmetshin, Partner Ilya Bolotnov, Head of Real Estate Practice Natalia Stenina, Head of Business Development Department Olga Bulatova and China Desk manager Ning Wang.

During the business trip, Pepeliaev Group held seminars for Chinese businessmen in Beijing, organised by the Russian Trade Mission in the People's Republic of China, and in Shanghai. The participants in the seminar displayed their habitual keen interest in topics regarding potential cooperation between the two countries and investments into Russian Federation.

In their speech, the representatives of Pepeliaev Group laid special emphasis on the attractiveness of Russia's regions for investment. During his presentation Rustem Ahmetshin dwelled on the investment climate in Russia's regions, benefits granted to foreign investors and the opportunities that residents of Special Economic Zone and of the Advanced Development Areas may benefit from. In his report, Ilya Bolotnov addressed the legal aspects of establishing joint ventures with Russian partners in those areas with favourable investment regimes. At the seminar, Natalia Stenina described the legal and practical aspects of construction and real estate transactions in Russian regions.

In addition, given the great interest of Chinese media in investment opportunities for business in Russia, press conferences were arranged in Beijing and Shanghai. These were attended by publications such as China International Finance News, Economic Daily, China Business Journal, China Daily, and Legal Daily among others. The delegates from Pepeliaev Group answered questions regarding the current situation in various branches of the Russian economy, described the most promising regions for investments and discussed the potential risks and opportunities of setting up a business in Russia.

"We have been developing our business in China for many years now," comments Managing Partner Sergey Pepeliaev. "Over the last few years we have been actively doing business with Chinese clients, such as Alibaba, Lifan, Huawei, ZTE Corporation, China UnionPay and other corporations. We advise them on IP, employment and migration, tax, corporate and customs law. Our China Desk and associated offices in China represent yet another step to bring us closer to our current and future clients."

**Pepeliaev Group** is a leading Russian law firm offering the full range of legal services in all regions of Russia, most former Soviet countries and abroad. Over 160 lawyers in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Krasnoyarsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Vladivostok (the last within our alliance with Russin & Vecchi),

provide legal assistance to over 1,500 companies operating in various industries. 50% of these are international corporations implementing long-term investment projects in Russia.