



Association
of European
Businesses

Press Release

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Moscow

AEB opposes the introduction of trading fees

The Association of European Businesses (AEB) opposes the introduction of trading fees, considering this measure to be a tax on commercial activity that will lead to a deterioration in the business climate and a reduction in the investment attractiveness of Russia.

The regulations on trading fees have not received regulatory impact assessments and were not discussed with the business community.

The Association of European Businesses recognises the need to combat tax evasion, including because tax evasion undermines fair competition in the market. In reality, however, it has turned out that the rules on trading fees providing for imputed taxation, i.e. regardless of the financial results of business operations, have not been developed nor calculated taking into account the diversity of forms and types of commercial activity. Accordingly, their application – especially in an environment where market participants are facing increasing difficulties in conducting business and a reduction in its profitability – will lead not to a reduction in the grey sector, but to a real tax burden increase for those entrepreneurs who now pay their taxes in good conscience. There is a high risk of pushing commercial entrepreneurs into an illegal area, leaving a certain part of business “in the shadows,” which will cause a decrease in tax revenues for local budgets.

Finally, the end consumer will suffer as well, as the fees will lead to an additional increase in prices and the closure of retail stores that cannot bear the added tax burden, especially in the challenging economic environment.

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