

the strategy will be extremely important for further development of the EU-Russia cooperation. Two projects for monitoring the practical implementation of the strategy, including an EU-funded evaluation project, are ready to be launched and we rely on the support of our Russian colleagues in order to carry them out as quickly as possible.

I am confident that the important work done by the EU and Russia in customs cooperation will continue. It is in our common interest to harmonize and simplify customs procedures with the ultimate aim of ensuring the smooth flow of goods and strengthening trade and economic growth.