

deployed by participating Member States, the Federal Customs Service and the European Commission. Pre-arrival transit information on consignments directed from the EU to Russia is sent now on a daily basis by the 13 participating Member States. However, further work is needed to ensure real facilitation at the border for economic operators. The EU and the Federal Customs Service remain fully committed to continue this work.

Although progress has not been complete yet with regard to the first priority, we continue to support the efforts of the Russian authorities, and in particular of the Federal Customs Service, towards the implementation of Law 266 of 30 December 2006. It is our sincere hope that the reduction of the number of agencies operating controls at Russia's borders will proceed speedily and will result in streamlining of border procedures. We hope as well that other recent legislative, administrative and practical measures, which are being elaborated by Russia, will aim to improve the situation at the common border and lead to faster processing.

In the longer term, we will also need to ensure that border-crossing and related infrastructure is of sufficient capacity to cope with ever increasing trade volumes. The competent bodies, including the EU-Russia Sub-Committee on Customs and Cross-border Cooperation have dealt with this issue. These useful exchanges of information will continue, focusing on the two sides' infrastructure priorities, current and planned projects, but also financing possibilities.

A progress in the implementation of the EU-Russia customs cooperation strategy is constantly monitored at the working level by a joint Working Group, including representatives of the European Commission, Russian Customs and 13 Member States. It is also supervised formally and regularly by the EU-Russia Customs Sub-Committee. However, a full appraisal of the implementation of