**VEGAS LEX discusses alienation of land plots for subsurface use**

**VEGAS LEX has participated in an AssoNeft roundtable on oil and gas SMEs development in Russia in Saratov**

On July 30, 2015, Russia’s Association of Small and Medium-Sized Oil and Gas Companies (AssoNeft) organized a roundtable in Saratov to discuss important aspects of oil and gas SMEs development in Russia. Experts from the VEGAS LEX law form spoke in the event.

**Georgy Kandelaki**, an associate of VEGAS LEX’s Real Estate, Land & Construction Practice, delivered a report on *Subsurface Use and Land Relations: 2015 Procedures and Law Enforcement Practices*\*, speaking about the main phases and conditions of the procedure for alienation of plots of land for subsurface use.

The participants also discussed the current state and the development potential independent small and medium-sized oil and gas producers in Russia, taxes in the oil and gas industry and the impact of tax moves on the economic conditions in which the oil production and refining companies operate in 2014-2015.

A resolution was drawn up following the roundtable; once approved, the participants agreed to send to the federal and regional executive bodies responsible for Russia’s oil and gas industry.

The event was held for the employees of the Yukola Neft holding company, representatives of small oil and gas producers based in the Saratov Region, and of government agencies, to inform them of the current situation in the industry.

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*\* VEGAS LEX’s expertise in the field of land and development has earned it a reputation of the leading legal consultant for investment and construction, real estate and land relations over the past two decades.* <http://old.vegaslex.ru/en/section/20568>

*VEGAS LEX offers comprehensive legal support of projects in oil and gas exploration, development, refining and marketing; represents oil companies in anti-monopoly disputes as well as in various commercial disputes. Our clients include major Russian companies such as Gazprom, Gazprom Neft, Rosneft (previously TNK-BP), VNIPIgazodobycha and others.*