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VEGAS LEX DISCUSSES JUDICIAL PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH NON-PAYMENTS IN HOUSING AND UTILITIES

VEGAS LEX's Yuriy Tatarinov has reviewed court practice in dealing with non-payments in housing and utilities at a roundtable organized by the Kommersant Media Holding and the Reliable Partner Association in Samara.

On March 31, Samara hosted a roundtable on *Non-payments in Housing and Utilities: Judicial Practice and Current Issues in 2017*; Counsel of VEGAS LEX Energy practice <u>Yuriy Tatarinov</u> spoke at the event.

Russia passed a law tightening the payment discipline* more than a year ago. The need for the new legislation was particularly evident in large industrial areas such as the Samara Region, where debts to water, gas, heat and electricity suppliers were growing at an alarming rate. Collecting debts through court action is not as effective as using measures provided by law**.

Mr. Tatarinov explained the reasons why debts owed to suppliers accumulate in the housing and utilities sector, pointing out the shortcomings in the regulation of payments for the resources supplied. The expert talked about the judicial practice of recovering debts in the housing and utilities sector and listed the recent initiatives in the sector's regulation.

The participants also discussed the practice of applying regional legislative and regulatory acts governing settlements between energy consumers and gas, heat and electric power supply companies, and ways to resolve this problem. As a result of the event, a resolution is to be prepared and submitted to federal executive and legislative bodies.

Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Economic Policy **Viktor Rogotsky** delivered a welcome speech at the roundtable. Other speakers included Head of the Reliable Partner Association **Andrei Romanchuk**, General Director of the Center for Development of Communications in Fuel and Energy **Irina Yesipova**, and Deputy General Director for Legal Issues at Gazprom Teploenergo **Yulia Vrublevskaya**.

* Federal Law FZ-307 "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation Aimed at Strengthening the Payment Discipline of Electricity Consumers."

** Source : Kommersant <u>http://www.kommersant.ru/doc/3247581</u>.

For more information on the firm's services to the energy sector, please go here.