



## BUSINESS AGAINST AIDS ROUNDTABLE

*A dialogue between European companies, EU and Russia authorities initiated to share best practices and to develop effective approaches to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Russian Federation*

On February 8th, the Delegation of the European Commission to Russia, Association of the European Business in Russia (AEB Russia) and Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS/Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (TPAA/GBC) held a special Business Against AIDS Roundtable for European companies operating in Russia to discuss what makes HIV/AIDS be not only a medical issue but a business challenge in this country.

Roundtable presentations focused around the following scopes:

- HIV/AIDS situation in Russia,
- Health Public Private Partnerships in Russia;
- Government response to the epidemic;
- HIV as a business issue;
- Existing best practices of corporate response to HIV/AIDS in Russia (case studies from SABMiller and Royal Dutch Shell);
- HEALTH@WORK – a Comprehensive Workplace Prevention Program against HIV/AIDS, Alcohol and Drug Abuse; the program reveals the concept of employees' physical and mental health as a prerequisite for corporate sustainability and success of business operations.

**The agenda included the following speakers:**

- Mr. **Paul Vandoren**, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation;
- Mr. **Mikhail Grishankov**, First Deputy Chair of the State Duma Committee on Security, Member of the Russian Government Commission on AIDS;
- Dr. **Frank Schauff**, CEO, Association of the European Business in Russia;
- Mr. **Alec Khachatryan**, Head of Representative office in the Russian Federation, TPAA/GBC;
- Ms. **Natalya Podogova**, Business and Labor Manager, TPAA/GBC;
- Mr. **Anton Rushakov**, Corporate Issues and Communications Advisor, Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.;
- Ms. **Nadezhda Khotina**, External Communications Manager, SABMiller Russia;
- Dr. **Tatiana Grechanaia**, HEALTH@WORK Program Manager, TPAA /GBC.

Top Managers from the following companies took part in the event: ABN Amro, British Petroleum, International Road Transport Union, L'Oreal, Nestlé, Slava/IIC Partners, Solo Office Interiors, PBN, SABMiller Russia. There were also representatives from the German Embassy, Russian Labor Confederation, Community of People Living with HIV and the International Business Leaders Forum. Mr. Vandoren and Mr. Schauff appealed to European companies to adhere to the initiatives mentioned during the roundtable and TPAA/GBC experts showed readiness to provide full support and consultancy to the companies.

The participants showed a great interest to the discussion on the impact of HIV on the competitiveness of companies and prevention activities in the region, adopted the statement and agreed on the further discussion of concrete initiatives.

**About TPAA/GBC:**

The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GBC) is dedicated to mobilizing the private sector in the fight against the leading pandemics of our time. GBC membership currently stands at 220 members and is growing rapidly. In August 2006, GBC and Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS (TPAA) began a merger process, expanding GBC's mandate into Russia, Ukraine and the former CIS. Together, GBC and TPAA's programs span four continents raising awareness and building political will; providing high-quality policy research and analysis; strengthening civil society; forging innovative global partnerships; and, supporting policymakers, business executives, and media leaders in their efforts to stem the growing tide of HIV/AIDS and TB in the region. For more information, visit TPAA online at [www.tpaa.net](http://www.tpaa.net) and GBC online at [www.businessfightsaids.org](http://www.businessfightsaids.org).

**About the AEB:**

The AEB is an independent non-commercial association funded by membership and sponsorship.

AEB membership is made up of enterprises and entrepreneurs from the member states of the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which have business activities with and in the Russian Federation. These members form the AEB General Assembly (GA), which determines the overall strategy and policies of the association.

The AEB was established in 1995 on the initiative of several European companies registered in the Russian Federation, Ambassadors of EU member states and the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation.

The mission of the AEB is to represent and promote the interests of its Members by supporting them in doing business with and in Russia through quality lobbying, information support, and through activities aimed at improving the Russian trade and business environment in conformity with internationally accepted business principles and promoting integration and partnership between the European Union (EU) and Russia.

[www.aebus.ru](http://www.aebus.ru)

**Delegation of the European Commission to Russia:**

The basic mandate of the Delegation of the European Commission to Russia is to assure the representation of the European Commission towards the Russian Federation. The Delegation monitors and analyses the development of Russian policies and follows bilateral relations in the political, economic, commercial as well as financial and technical cooperation areas. It also conducts negotiations on behalf of the EU in accordance with approved mandates.

Delegation serves an important function, providing background and updates on European integration and EU policies as well as on the technical cooperation programs with Russia, to the host Government, Federal and regional administrations, the media, business and academic circles as well as civil society.

[www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/ru](http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/ru)



**Business Against AIDS Roundtable, February 8, the Delegation of the European Commission to RF**



**Dr. Frank Schauff, CEO, Association of the European Business in Russia; Mr. Paul Vandoren, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation; and Mr. Mikhail Grishankov, First Deputy Chair of the State Duma Committee on Security, Member of the Russian Government Commission on AIDS opening the roundtable.**