



April 1, 2025 **AEB ANNIVERSARY FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE**

EUROPEAN BUSINESS IN RUSSIA: 2025 – A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY?

RBK Event Center
Kosmodamianskaya
embankment,
52 bld 7

PROGRAM

08:30 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

09:00 **Welcome Address**

Dr Thomas Staertzel, Chairman of the Board, Association of European Businesses

09:15 **More Than Just Profit:**

The Importance of Friendships in Business Relations Between Russia and Europe

The business of business is business, said Milton Friedman once, implying that companies should primarily focus on profits. But business is more than just business and businesses create more than shareholder value. In particular, businesses are a meeting point where people from different origins, backgrounds, and walks of life meet and productively interact with each other. As such, businesses are also laboratories of people to people contacts and friendships, friendships that hopefully cannot only survive, but help overcoming divisions and prepare the ground for a different future.

Panelists:

- Viktor Vekselberg, Chairman of the International Committee, RSPP, Founder, Renova*
- Antonio Fallico, President, Banca Intesa*
- Alexey Grigoryev, Head of Representative Office, METRO
- Reiner Hartmann, Former Chairman of the Board, AEB
- Alexander Ivlev, B1, Coordinator of the Foreign Investors Advisory Council (FIAC)
- Svetlana Obruchkova, General Manager, Jacobs Douwe Egberts
- Georges Chichmanov, General Secretary, L'Oreal Russia*

Moderator: Philippe Pegorier, Partner, Kesarev

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 **Plenary Session**

**In Search of Islands of Cooperation:
When and How to Start Rebuilding Broken Relations?**

With first direct contacts at the highest levels between Russia and the US and hopes regarding a potential settlement of the conflict in and around Ukraine reaching an all-time high since the breakdown of the Istanbul talks, one key question for the future of the relations between Europe and Russia comes to the forefront: when and how to start rebuilding broken trust and broken relations, with the second part of the question, the "how", being probably more important than the "when". Will there be a big deal, a new vision, a grand design for a new Europe or will we rather need policies of incremental, small steps, creating small islands of cooperation ringfenced from setbacks and political turbulences?



Panelists:

- Tatiana Ilushnikova, Deputy Minister of Economic Development
- Alexander Grushko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Alexey Sazanov, State-Secretary, Deputy Minister of Finance
- Anatoly Aksakov, Deputy, Chairman of the Banking Committee, State Duma
- Alexander Shokhin, President, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP)
- Alexey Mordashov, President and Owner, Severstal
- Irina Panarina, Country President, AstraZeneca

Moderator: Tazio Schilling, CEO, Association of European Businesses

12:15 Coffee Break

12:30 **The Art of Keeping Doors Open:
What Insights from Central Asia for the 21st Century?**

Doors always had a special significance in the Eurasian region, as evidenced in impressive art works, such as Vereshchagin's "The Doors of Timur". But more recently, they have become the symbol for the efforts of an entire region, to resist being forced to choose sides and to keep doors open to all sides. What insights can be drawn from this experience for the 21st century?

Panelists:

- Gohar Barseghyan, Minister, Eurasian Economic Commission
- Roland Galharague, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Russia*
- Borirzhon Asadov, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Russia*
- Ernesto Ferlenghi, CEO, Saipem Azerbaijan and Turkey*
- Roman Sabirov, CEO, Philips

Moderator: Ulf Schneider, President, Schneider Group

13:30 Networking lunch

Language(s): Russian, English.

Contacts: Program: Olga Silnitskaya, Deputy CEO and GR Director (olga.silnitskaya@aebrus.ru)
Registration: Polina Skorovarova, Event Manager (email: polina.skorovarova@aebrus.ru)

*invited

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