



**Moscow  
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## **Press Release**

### **The AEB invites to participate in the event dedicated to energizing the Russian SME sector with high-profile speakers**

On 19 November 2013, the AEB Finance & Investments and SME Committees will jointly held an open event, titled “Energizing SME sector in Russia: practical aspects of cooperation with multinational companies and financial sector”.

Realizing its importance, the AEB takes up the subject of energising the SME sector that is one of the government's current principal strategic directions. As part of the program, this event will be broadcasted live across Russia in four regional EBRD offices where representatives of SMEs, multinational companies and banks will have a chance to discuss issues raised during the event. The event will also be broadcasted on the AEB and EY websites.

The three sessions of the event will be devoted to:

- analysis of the work done to date by the international financial institutions and their coming plans;
- review of how the multinational companies cooperate with SMEs with analysis of the issues and opportunities;
- existing financial programs for SMEs.

Among confirmed speakers at the event are *Natalia Larionova*, Director of SME Development and Competition Department of the RF Ministry of Economic Development; *Agris Preimanis*, Senior Economist, Financial Institutions, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); *Sergei Safonov*, Partner, EY; *Natasha Khanjenkova*, Managing Director Russia, EBRD; *Virgil Nae*, Head of the European Investment Bank Permanent representation in the RF; *Sergey Krjukov*, Chairman of the Board, SME Bank, as well as representatives of Bank URALSIB, Bank Vozrozhdenie, LLC Continental Kaluga and METRO Cash&Carry Russia.

The sessions will be moderated by *Frank Schauff*, AEB CEO, *Stuart Lawson*, AEB Finance and Investment Committee Chairman, Head of UK Business Center, EY and *Orlin Efremov*, AEB Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Committee Chairman, General Director of Performance partners.

The next event on the topic is expected to be held next year and will be focused on active conversation with the regional and government authorities about how the process of energizing SME sector in Russia can be improved.

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