

1995
30
years
2025



Association
of European
Businesses

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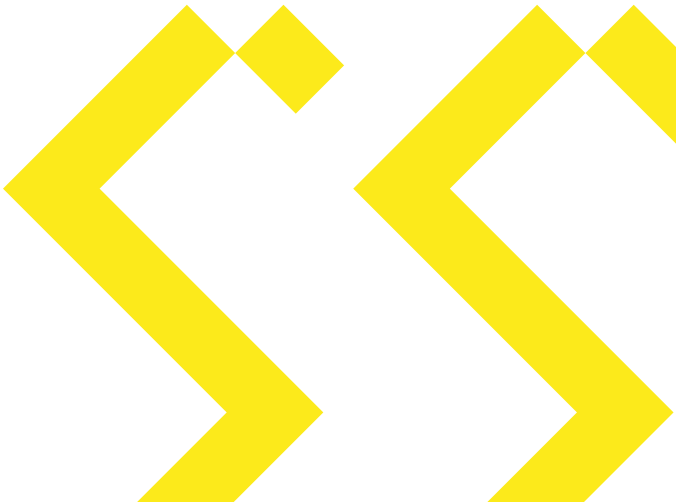
2024

ANNUAL REPORT

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	01
AEB AT A GLANCE	02
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS	03
AEB 2024 MILESTONES	04
GR AGENDA	04
EURASIAN OUTREACH	15
AEB GR ACADEMY	18
KEY CONFERENCES AND FORUMS	20
COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS	26
INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES	26
CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES	41
WORKING GROUPS	61
REGIONAL COMMITTEES	67
MAJOR EVENTS	71
COMMUNICATIONS, PR AND ANALYTICS	76



INTRODUCTION



**THOMAS
STAERTZEL**

CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD, ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPEAN
BUSINESSES



**TADZIO
SCHILLING**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPEAN
BUSINESSES

DEAR READERS,

We are pleased to present the AEB Annual Report 2024, which provides a brief yet thorough summary of the Association's activities over the past year. The report showcases significant AEB milestones, accomplishments of Committees and Working Groups, major events, communication analytics, and membership data.

In 2024, the contours of transformative processes in the economy and adjustments in the business environment further took shape. A still rapidly changing reality brought numerous challenges to our members. In response to the profound changes and far-reaching shifts of the past years, AEB has updated its core mission statement for 2025. We aim to provide best-in-class support to our members, maintain open channels of communication with stakeholders on all sides, and propose constructive ways to rebuild trust and mend fractured relationships.

According to data from the AEB Member Satisfaction Survey 2024, nearly 60% of companies identified AEB's capabilities in advocating European business interests through interactions with various government agencies as the primary benefit of AEB membership. Additionally, about 21% of companies ranked networking as their top priority. Notably, almost 40% of respondents attended more than seven AEB events in the past year, with one-third participating in more than twelve events.

In terms of the GR agenda, AEB organized over 150 formal meetings with public authorities. Overall, there were more than 360 GR touchpoints with decision-makers from Russia, the EAEU, and Central Asia. AEB Committees and Working Groups prepared and sent over 370 letters to state agencies and bodies to advocate for the positions of European businesses operating in Russia. A significant achievement was the launch of the AEB GR Academy, which aims to enhance both the AEB's and members' advanced GR skills while establishing a platform for sharing best practices and connecting professionals.

As for networking, the AEB's events served as venues for exchanging views and fostering business relations. In 2024, the Association hosted over 100 events for its members, including one flagship conference and several annual conferences featuring high-level officials, top-ranked experts, and distinguished practitioners.

We are grateful to the Members of the Board, the Council of National Representation, the Auditing Commission, and the Chairpersons of the Committees, Subcommittees, and Working Groups for their professionalism, hard work, and dedication to our joint mission.

We also would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all AEB members for their unwavering support and loyalty to the Association. Due to your encouragement, expertise and focused efforts, AEB has managed to stay resilient and successfully move forward in an environment full of challenges – open and hidden, unknowns, and unexpected turns and changes.

AEB AT A GLANCE

29

YEARS
OF WORK



98%

OF MEMBERS REPORT AEB
EXCEEDED OR MET EXPECTATIONS*

6500

AEB COMMUNITY
PARTICIPANTS



3

OFFICES IN
RUSSIA

39

EMPLOYEES

349

MEMBERS

34

REPRESENTED
COUNTRIES

395 000+

AEB WEBSITE VIEWS

120 000+

AEB WEBSITE VISITS

7000+

AEB WEBSITE UNIQUE VISITORS

100+

REGULAR
EVENTS



1200+

AEB TELEGRAM
CHANNEL SUBSCRIBERS

4500+

MEDIA
MENTIONS

8

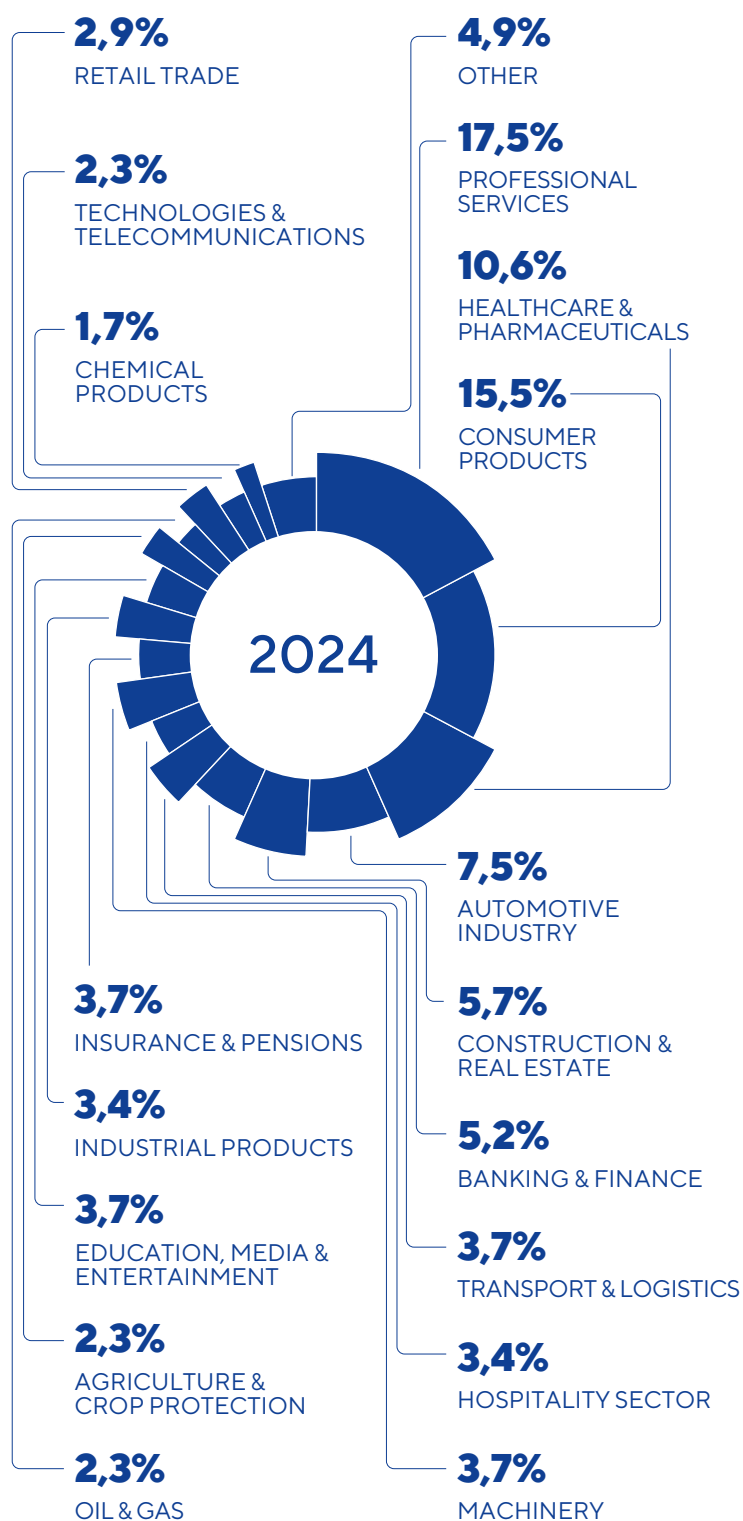
PERIODICAL
PUBLICATIONS



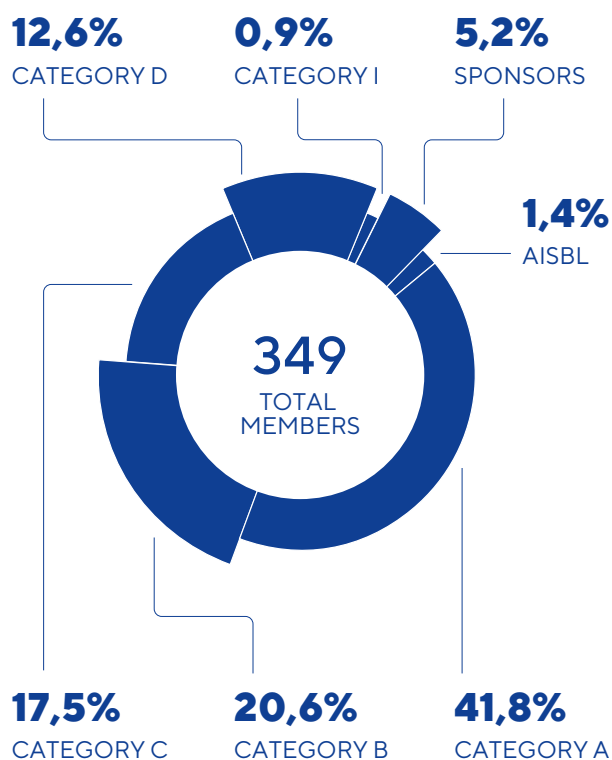
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



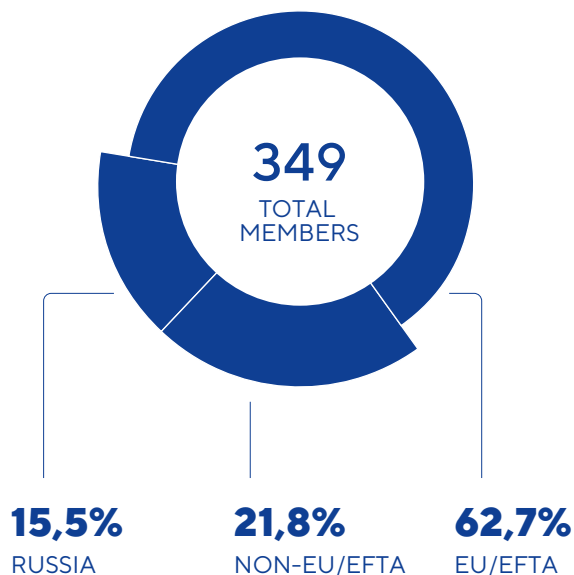
MEMBERS BY INDUSTRY



MEMBERS BY CATEGORY



MEMBERS BY COUNTRY



AEB 2024 MILESTONES



GR AGENDA

The extensive AEB GR calendar encompassed participation in key conferences and major forums in Russia, EAEU and Central Asia with many GR touchpoints on the margins; numerous meetings with Russian public authorities and high-ranking officials including 14 Ministers, 29 Heads of Agencies, over 90 Deputy Ministers/Deputy Heads of Agencies, more than 190 Department Directors/Heads of Units; formal contacts with EAEU government agencies in the framework of the business missions.

In 2024, AEB launched its signature GR Academy project and produced "Position Paper: Key Issues".

IMPRESSIVE LOBBYING POWER:

80+

COMMITTEES,
SUBCOMMITTEES,
WORKING GROUPS

340+

COMMITTEES' AND
WORKING GROUPS'
MEETINGS

370+

LOBBYING LETTERS

ACCESS TO POLICY MAKERS:

360+

GR TOUCHPOINTS
WITH DECISION
MAKERS FROM RUSSIA,
EAEU, CENTRAL ASIA

40+

MEETINGS WITH
MINISTERS AND HEADS
OF AGENCIES



GR MEETINGS

MEETING WITH MIKHAIL MURASHKO, MINISTER OF HEALTHCARE OF RUSSIA

On February 1, 2024 the AEB delegation headed by Tadzio Schilling met with Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Healthcare of Russia. The participants discussed a list of issues that are particularly acute on the companies' agenda and require attention from the Ministry's management. The problems of improving registration procedures, compiling a list of medicines, improving regulation of compulsory licensing and other issues were touched upon.

MEETING WITH ANTON KOPYAKOV, ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

On March 13, 2024 the AEB leadership participated in a meeting with Anton Kobyakov, Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation, Executive Secretary of the Roscongress Organizing Committee. The main topic of discussion was further cooperation with the Foundation, as well as AEB's participation in the main events.



MEETING WITH SERGEY LAVROV, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF RUSSIA

On April 24, 2024 the traditional meeting of the AEB management, a number of European trade and industry associations and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov took place. The parties discussed a number of topical foreign economic topics, including the issues of doing foreign business in Russia.

BRIEFING BY ELVIRA NABIULLINA, HEAD OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF RUSSIA

On July 15, 2024 a high-level meeting with Elvira Nabiullina, Governor of the Bank of Russia, was organized.

The briefing was attended by CEOs and executives of AEB member companies. During the briefing Elvira Nabiullina informed the participants about the directions of the monetary policy, and answered questions raised by AEB members.



MEETING WITH BORIS TITOV, SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

On September 26, 2024 Boris Titov, Special Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation for Relations with International Organizations to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals, and representatives of AEB member companies held a working meeting to discuss the most pressing sustainable development issues for foreign businesses in Russia.

AEB members discussed with Boris Titov areas of cooperation in the context of sustainable development with international businesses operating in Russia and Russian businesses targeting the global market.

BRIEFING BY MAXIM SHASKOLSKIY, HEAD OF THE FEDERAL ANTIMONOPOLY SERVICE

On October 30, 2024 an annual briefing by Maxim Shaskolskiy, Head of the Federal Antimonopoly Service, was organized.

The meeting focused on such topics as: interaction of retail chains with suppliers, regulation of marketplaces, factors regulating prices for food products, risks and prospects for the development of artificial intelligence. A large block of questions was devoted to the regulation of intellectual property of right holders, the pharmaceutical industry and public procurement.

In his speech, Maxim Shaskolskiy paid special attention to the FAS's approaches to ensuring a competitive environment on e-commerce markets and the use of information technologies in the fight against cartels.



MEETING WITH YURY ZUBOV, HEAD OF THE FEDERAL SERVICE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

On December 17, 2024 a meeting with Yury Zubov, Head of the Federal Service for Intellectual Property, was organized.

Yury Zubov and his colleagues answered questions from AEB member companies regarding key issues of intellectual property protection in pharmaceuticals, including compulsory licensing, the prospects of legislation improvement and introduction of interim measures.



MEETING WITH MAXIM PROTASOV, HEAD OF ROSKACHESTVO

On December 27, 2024 AEB member companies met with Maxim Protasov, Head of Roskachestvo. Participants discussed the procedure for obtaining the Quality Mark, the activities carried out by Roskachestvo aimed at assisting in the selection of products that are subject to the voluntary certification System of Quality Confirmation of Russian Products.

GR HIGHLIGHTS

INITIATIVES ON PROTECTION OF THE RUSSIAN MARKET

AEB member companies are sympathetic to the efforts of the Government of the Russian Federation to expand support for the products of Russian manufacturers in the consumer market. We see that Russian products already have a significant market share and the necessary competitiveness.

One of the initiatives at the top of the AEB agenda is the drafting of a bill on the so-called "Russian shelf" in terms of the obligation of retail chains/internet platforms to guarantee the presence of a minimum share of goods of Russian origin "on the shelf". In general, AEB member companies do not support this bill as it violates the principles of market competition.

However, it seems extremely important for companies to envisage the possibility of "softening" the criteria for classifying products as goods of Russian origin in such a way that the whole range of goods produced in the territory of the Russian Federation could be included.

Another important broad topic for companies importing products into Russia is the introduction of tariff and non-tariff regulation measures.

In December 2022, Russian Government Resolution No. 2240 introduced a 35th customs duty on imports of certain types of perfumes and cosmetics (shampoos, hair products, tooth cleaning products, shaving products, deodorants and antiperspirants, products for aromatization and deodorization of indoor air, detergents and cleaning products) from the USA, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Poland. The duty is currently extended until December 31, 2025.

In April 2024, the Russian government expanded the list of perfumes, cosmetics and household chemical products subject to the 35% import duty, as well as the list of countries, products from which the duty is applied.

As a result of the introduction of the duty, the industry representatives note an increase in prices in these categories, and also for the goods of domestic producers.

Currently, proposals to expand the list of goods from "unfriendly" countries subject to increased import duties are periodically discussed on various platforms.

The import substitution trend is also strengthening in agriculture. It is aimed at ensuring Russia's food security, which is justified and understandable in the current situation. At the same time, quotas on imports of agricultural seeds into the Russian Federation, as one of the main mechanisms of its implementation, carry significant risks for ensuring food security



of the country. In the beginning of 2024, regulatory legal acts establishing quotas for seed imports were adopted.

In the countries that are major suppliers of seeds to Russia, seed production is a highly technological and, therefore, very expensive process. Formation of seed production volumes, including for export to other countries, is carried out in accordance with carefully prepared and approved production plans with a breakdown by importing countries. The establishment of seed stocks that are not intended for planned sales is generally not practiced. The only exception is commercially justified adjustments due to changes in acreage planted to certain crops in the importing country. Under current conditions, the logistics of importing imported seeds has become much more complicated in terms of procedure and time.

Taking into account the existing restrictions on competition and rising prices, AEB, as well as leading industry unions, proposes to carefully analyze the results of the introduction of quotas on seed imports. It is also necessary to take into account the opinion of agricultural producers, primarily agricultural holdings, on how effective the seeds of domestic breeding turned out to be this

year. This will allow to form a balanced approach to the development of effective measures for the development of breeding and seed production and strengthening of the agrarian industry of Russia.

In addition to the already introduced restrictive measures, authorized government bodies continue to discuss and agree on a non-tariff measure to regulate pesticide turnover, i.e. introduction of quotas for pesticide imports.

Leading industry unions express serious concern about the planned measure, the introduction of which will lead to a decrease in the availability of pesticides for agricultural producers. The reduction in imports of plant protection products

and the lack of their replacement in terms of quality characteristics will lead to a decrease in competition in the EAEU markets and an increase in counterfeit products. As a result of the introduction of quotas, the cost of production of all crops is expected to increase, as the share of plant protection products in the cost structure averages 10-15%.

International AEB member companies continue to operate in Russia and fulfill their obligations to Russian agricultural producers, providing them with innovative crop protection products. The introduction of quotas on imports of plant protection products requires a balanced approach taking into account all possible consequences and risks for agriculture.

LEGAL REGULATION OF MARKETPLACES

Marketplaces have transformed the interaction between sellers and buyers, bringing them closer than ever before. With goods now just a click away, marketplaces offer significant societal value.

However, this convenience often hides the identity of the actual seller. Consumers frequently engage directly with the platform, relying on its reputation and infrastructure, often unaware of the true seller's existence.

A pressing concern is the sale of products requiring declaration, certification, state registration, licensing, or inclusion in special catalogs that do not meet these requirements or are accompanied by fraudulent documentation. Particularly sensitive categories include pharmaceuticals, medical devices, pesticides, food products, cosmetics, and household chemicals, all of which pose potential risks to consumer health and environmental safety.

There are cases of selling goods on marketplaces that violate the legislation on trademarks, protection of exclusive rights and interests of right holders. These are goods imported into Russia as part of unauthorized parallel imports, and in addition, there are cases of sales of goods that violate trademark legislation, protection of exclusive rights and interests of right holders.

As a result of such sales, the consumer not only bears the risks associated with the quality and safety of such goods, but may also be deprived of the opportunity to protect their rights in relations with the legal representatives of right holders, who may not be liable for products, the sale of which they did not control.

This practice is fraught with damage to the investment climate and to the interests of bona fide right holders who, while complying with all legal requirements, bear additional costs, as well as ensure brand recognition at the cost of marketing investments, the lack of which allows unscrupulous players to dump prices.

Marketplaces have cases of violation of legislation on mandatory labeling with means of identification and traceability in sales of relevant goods.

Some sellers resell labeled goods purchased by them as end consumers, for example, under a promotion, and withdrawn by the retailer from circulation in the "Honest Mark" system.

There are also cases of sales of unlabeled goods in categories for which it is mandatory.



The legal framework governing the relationships among marketplaces, sellers, and buyers is still developing in Russia, leaving many rights, responsibilities, and liabilities undefined. Effective state regulation is essential for sustainable growth, equitable competition, and consumer safety.

To ensure balanced development and protection for all stakeholders — from big corporations to SMEs — state regulation should foster cooperation rather than conflict between market participants and regulators.

Sellers and producers of goods, trademark right holders and marketplaces united by AEB consider the main goal of the

regulation to be the protection of consumers' interests and share responsibility towards them.

The key regulatory objectives include:

- › ensuring the safety of goods sold on marketplaces;
- › enforcing intellectual property rights and compliance with exclusive rights laws;
- › promoting traceability through adherence to mandatory labeling requirements;
- › encouraging fair competition among various e-commerce models.

FOREIGN BUSINESS IN RUSSIA: MODERNIZATION OF TAX “RULES OF THE GAME”

In 2024, a number of federal laws were adopted in the field of tax, significantly affecting the amount and procedure of taxation in 2025 and subsequent periods. The changes are mainly aimed at increasing the tax burden, and they affect companies with both Russian and foreign shareholders, as well as individuals. Thus, from 1 January 2025, the corporate income tax rate will increase from 20 to 25% as, accordingly, will the withholding tax rate (from 20 to 25%), except for certain types of income. Excise taxes and mineral extraction tax will be adjusted upwards, and a new tourist tax will be introduced. In addition, the income tax rate for companies engaged in IT activities is to rise from 0% to 5%, while insurance premiums are also being increased.

Significant changes also concern the taxation of individuals: a five-stage personal income tax scale is being introduced, with a maximum rate of 22% (at the level of income over 50 million roubles) as against the current 15% rate. A separate taxation procedure is established for certain types of income.

Thus, in 2024 the trend that gained momentum in past periods and is associated with an increase in the tax burden for almost all major taxes has crystallized more clearly.

Cross-border transactions, especially with related parties, also remain a focus of the legislature's attention. Thus, in 2024, the suspension of certain provisions of double tax agreements with European countries continued to apply. This led to a significant increase in the tax burden when dividends, interest and royalties are paid to foreign companies, which, together with the current procedure requiring permission for the payment of, primarily, dividends, significantly reduces the potential for the preservation and development of business in Russia. Unfortunately, the measures previously taken to mitigate the consequences of the suspension of double taxation are limited and do not apply to transactions with related parties.

In addition, significant changes to transfer pricing regulation, which came into effect from 2024, in many respects change the standards of documentation. They also significantly adjust approaches to the standards of proving that prices conform to the market level and that liability has been established along with its extent.

Thus, in particular, when the RF Federal Tax Service adjusts prices (income) in controlled transactions between related parties, a party's income in the amount of such adjustment is equated to dividends only in relation to a foreign recipient regardless of whether the latter has corporate control over the Russian taxpayer. Similarly, the approach to liability for understating tax payable as a result of non-market prices being applied and the possibility of exemption from liability differs depending on whether the transaction has the nature of a domestic or cross-border transaction. If a taxpayer possesses documentation confirming that the prices of its transactions correspond to market prices, this will allow it to avoid liability only in the case of a domestic transaction. At the same time, the amount of the penalty for claims relating to a cross-border transaction is several times higher than the amount of the penalty for a similar offence relating to a domestic transaction.



Simultaneously, the tools of revising prices in the Tax Code of the Russian Federation for tax control, based on the median value of the interval, lead to an increased tax burden on the taxpayer (measured against comparable companies). This is because, in essence, additional charges for the difference between the median and the lower (upper) value of the interval will relate to the market price level (profitability).

It is also worth recalling that, from 1 January 2024, a 15% foreign income tax rate was introduced on payments under any service/work contracts concluded with a related foreign company. This also increases the burden on services that are often necessary

for a Russian company's business to function normally, while the growth in the price of such services to offset the additional tax burden will lead to the risk of transfer pricing revisions.

The foregoing, namely, the changes in legislation introduced in 2024 and those expected to be introduced in 2025, indicate that the tax burden is increasing. This includes for foreign groups operating in Russia and having a large number of intra-group transactions, which may become restrictive for those companies that, despite the current situation, continue to be active in Russia or plan to enter the Russian market.

CUSTOMS TRENDS: REGULATION AND PRACTICE

CURRENT ISSUES AROUND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN DETERMINATION

Proving the origin of imported goods is crucial in Russia, impacting tariff preferences, duty rates, and anti-dumping measures. A key issue is proving origin for non-preference purposes, especially given decrees imposing higher duties (up to 50%) on goods from "unfriendly" states (tools, machinery, apparel, etc.).

Obtaining certificates of origin from these countries is increasingly difficult, adding financial strain.

At a recent Ministry of Finance conference, businesses proposed granting the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Russia the power to issue certificates for foreign goods. Suggestions included adjusting the risk management system, requiring certificates only when customs has reason to suspect origin from targeted countries.

Other proposals included random checks on foreign trade partners via Russian trade missions and simplified procedures for authorized economic operators.

Dialogue between businesses and authorities is ongoing, with importers ready to propose technical adjustments to the legal framework for compromise solutions.

INCLUSION OF DIVIDENDS IN THE CUSTOMS VALUE

The trend of including dividends in customs value, especially for importers paying foreign founders, intensified in 2024. Customs authorities often assume dividends should be included without proving goods were underpriced, and courts often sided with them. Recent precedents exist where courts deemed inclusion illegal if the supplier's public offer allowed other companies to buy at the same prices.



The Ministry of Finance clarifies that dividends shouldn't be included if competing market conditions are proven and accessible to independent actors. However, this only applies to specific situations with multiple importers at the same price.

Law enforcement practice increasingly includes dividends in customs value, even when paid to a non-supplier founder, considering it "indirectly payable" through a group of companies.

A consistent legal practice hasn't evolved since the Supreme Court's position. No specific legislation exists, and government body clarifications are ad hoc. The EEC is expected to draft an act on dividend treatment for customs valuation.

Companies should formulate strong positions, including arm's-length pricing documentation, to exclude or reduce potential surcharges, as dividends don't always relate to the checked goods.



SUPPLY RESTRUCTURING AND INCLUSION OF THE AGENCY FEE IN THE CUSTOMS VALUE

Global supply chains are adapting to sanctions and increased regulatory scrutiny by using intermediaries in neutral countries and alternative currencies like the yuan. This shift relies heavily on payment agents, driving up costs by 15-20% due to conversion losses and commissions.

While alternative payment methods are explored, cryptocurrency adoption in international trade remains limited due to usability issues and regulatory uncertainty. Barter transactions are emerging but remain uncommon.

The increased reliance on payment agents highlights the debate on including agency fees in customs valuation. The Federal Customs Service argues for inclusion when agents act for the seller, while the Ministry of Finance suggests it only applies when goods are unobtainable without the agent. This creates legal uncertainty, as both parties have a vested interest in payments. Differing contract interpretations lead to conflicting conclusions, and legal precedent is still developing. The differing views of the FCS and MoF create challenges for businesses navigating these evolving trade conditions.

NAVIGATION SEALS

In 2023, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) finalized regulations for navigation seals to monitor transport in the EAEU, effective April 3, 2023, though not all member states are ready.

Phased deployment will cover most road and rail freight for import, export, transit, and mutual trade. The private sector fears excessive control, increased administrative and financial burdens, and higher transport costs, leading to increased prices.

Concerns also exist about expanding navigation seal use to more export commodities and mandatory implementation within the Belarus-Russia Union State before the Agreement's practical implementation.

Navigation seals should primarily support monitoring "high-risk" or sanctioned goods. Existing data exchange, control methods, UN conventions, and trade facilitation agreements already enable effective monitoring of goods and vehicles, including transit.

Proposed actions include:

- › Exempting TIR-transported goods permanently.
- › Postponing decisions on new tracking targets until the Agreement is implemented and assessed.
- › Limiting navigation seal data to the minimum required by the Agreement and ensuring direct data transmission from customs systems.

DIGITAL LABELLING OF GOODS: PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS

By the end of 2024 in Russia digital labelling of goods by identification with marking codes in the form of Data Matrix has been introduced in 24 commodity groups, and 16 experiments are being conducted. Digital labelling is actively developing in the EAEU countries.

On September 9, 2024 an Agreement was signed between Russia and Uzbekistan in order to transmit information about the labelling codes of medicines for medical use.

A mandatory labelling authorization regime at cash registers is being introduced everywhere to check whether it is possible to sell a particular labelled product.

Despite the project's active development of the project and the constant improvement of the regulatory framework, many market participants continue to face a number of unresolved challenges:

- › determination of goods that should be included in a particular commodity group for digital labelling at the 10-character level of the EAEU HS code and determination of exceptions;
- › determination of methods for applying identification means;
- › determination of places for applying identification means;
- › solving individual product turnover problems for each commodity group;
- › turnover of goods in the EAEU zone and mutual recognition of labelling codes on goods;
- › the role of labelling in the protection of IP rights and the expansion of information received by participants in the turnover of goods from the Government Information System for Monitoring the Turnover of Goods (GIS MT).

Considering the complex situation, we deem it is necessary to improve approaches to labelling comprehensively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Within the described framework, AEB members have developed recommendations that will allow market participants in implementing digital labelling of goods.

1. When deciding on the introduction of labelling in new product groups:
 - a. Improve the quality of defining commodity positions included in the list subject to mandatory digital labelling. Consider the specifics of the industry and the unique characteristics of certain commodity positions. The goods may be used both as standalone products and as components of other goods, whether subject to labelling or not.
 - b. Consider that the obligation to label affects the determination of the geographical location for applying identification, which may significantly alter interactions with foreign manufacturers.
2. To improve the functioning of the goods monitoring system in sectors where labelling has been implemented:
 - a. With the active development of a digital ecosystem of GIS, implement a unified software interface for submitting information based on the "Single Window" principle. Such interface will enable supervisory and regulatory authorities to obtain the entire dataset they require (such as from EGAIS, the "Mercury" system, GIS MT, etc.).
 - b. To balance the requirements of supervisory authorities regarding information submitted to resolve the problem of multiple preparations of information depending on an authority.
 - c. To increase the level of protection against counterfeit and falsified products in circulation, particularly in online trading.
 - d. To implement brand protection mechanisms within the information system as one of the three most important tasks of the digital labelling system. Ensure the protection of intellectual property rights in the circulation of labelled goods in accordance with the Protocol on the Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (Appendix No. 26 to the Treaty on the EEU).
 - e. To ensure the ability to apply marking codes on the territory of Russia at importers' warehouses to reduce economic costs for importers and shorten delivery times for consumers.
 - f. To harmonize the operation of national digital labelling systems and mutual recognition of codes within the territory of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).
 - g. To work with goods both as standalone items and as components of larger temporary aggregates, both in the territory of Russia and throughout the EAEU following unified rules.
 - h. To expand information received by turnover's participants from the GIS MT for more optimal construction of production, import, and circulation processes.
 - i. To mitigate potential degradation of previously functioning services and processes in the GIS MT.
- c. Consider the results of experiments from both a technological perspective and from the standpoint of the potential and costs associated with implementing new business processes, including the introduction of item-level tracking of goods.
- d. Harmonize the approach of all EAEU member countries regarding the introduction of mandatory labelling for new commodity groups.
- e. Develop new technological methods for applying identification taking into consideration industry-specific characteristics, the feasibility of application, and the properties of the goods and/or consumer packaging to minimize negative factors.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY: NOVELTIES AND EXPERIMENT

CHANGES IN LEGISLATION ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

In 2023, Federal Law No. 451-FZ dated 04.08.2023 'On Amendments to the Federal Law "On Production and Consumption Waste" and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation' was adopted. The Law provides for stricter requirements to the subjects of regulation, especially to importers not from the EAEU countries and to recyclers. In 2024, to develop this Law, regulations establishing detailed rules and procedures were approved, a register of recyclers was created, basic rates of ecological fee, coefficients considering the complexity of waste recovery and recycling, recycling standards and other regulations were approved.

A significant problem in the current economic situation is the growth of the ecological fee. Despite a rather moderate increase in the base rates and disposal norms, the introduction of increasing coefficients that take into account the complexity of waste recovery and recycling will eventually lead to a 2-3-fold increase in the ecological fee in 2025.

Industry participants also note that the filling of the recyclers' register is very slow and during 2024 no more than 25% of the recycling companies that could have been included in the register were included, the shortage is particularly acute in terms of paper packaging recycling. Accordingly, problems with recycling occurred in 2024 and there are still significant risks that in 2025 companies will also not be able to fulfil the EPR independently due to the lack of sufficient number of recyclers included in the register on the market.

Industry participants also note that it was practically impossible to conclude a guarantee agreement with a recycler in 2024, as a third party represented by the Federal Service for Supervision of

Natural Resource Usage (Rosprirodnadzor) refused to sign it and imposed requirements to the execution of the agreement that do not comply with the current legislation.

Separate risks are associated with the current experiment on fulfilment of obligations under extended producer responsibility until the day of release of goods by the customs authority for domestic consumption.

EXPERIMENT ON PAYMENT OF THE ECOLOGICAL FEE

In accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 750 of 01.06.2024 'On conducting an experiment in respect of certain groups of goods, including packaged goods' (hereinafter — Decree No. 750), an experiment is being conducted between September 2024 and September 2025 for importers of goods, packaging and packaged goods not from the EAEU countries to fulfil their obligations under extended producer responsibility before the day of release of the goods by the customs authority for domestic consumption by paying an ecological fee or by providing information on the composition and weight of the packaging used by the importer.

AEB notes that payment of the ecological fee before the goods are released by the customs authority for internal consumption is extremely difficult for importers, as the importer cannot provide accurate information on the composition and weight of the packaging by type of packaging used (paper, plastic, wood, etc.) when the goods are imported.

AEB believes that spare parts, components, samples for certification and marketing samples should be excluded from the EPR regulation based on the results of the ongoing experiment.

Experts consider that it is not possible to fulfil the current procedure in compliance with all legal requirements until the day the goods are released by the customs authority for domestic consumption and it is necessary to postpone the moment of responsibility for payment of the ecological fee and/or reporting until after the release of the goods.

It seems reasonable to consider the possibility of amending Clause 18 of Article 24.2-1 of Federal Law No. 89-FZ and related regulations to allow reporting and payment of the ecological fee on a monthly or quarterly basis, using actual data on the importation of goods and/or packaging of goods in respect of which the ecological fee is to be paid or a notification of self-disposal is provided. At the same time, the instruments already available in Federal Law No. 89-FZ (bank guarantee, guarantee agreement from the disposer) remain to guarantee the importer's fulfilment of its responsibility. For the largest importers it is possible to introduce reliability criteria that are already applied in other areas of payment collection (for example, they have the status of the largest payer of customs payments, authorized economic operator, etc.), for such companies a regime of exemption from providing a bank guarantee or guarantee agreement can be introduced.



EURASIAN OUTREACH

EURASIAN NEWSLETTER

In 2024 AEB continued its unique collaboration with the European Business Association of Kazakhstan (EUROBAK), the Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation (EUROUZ) and the European-Belarusian Business Association (EBBA) in the format of the Eurasian Newsletter. It aimed to present consolidated data on economic, legislative and integration issues of Central Asia and the South Caucasus region, as well as to share the Associations' key news items, events and initiatives.

EURASIAN NEWSLETTER

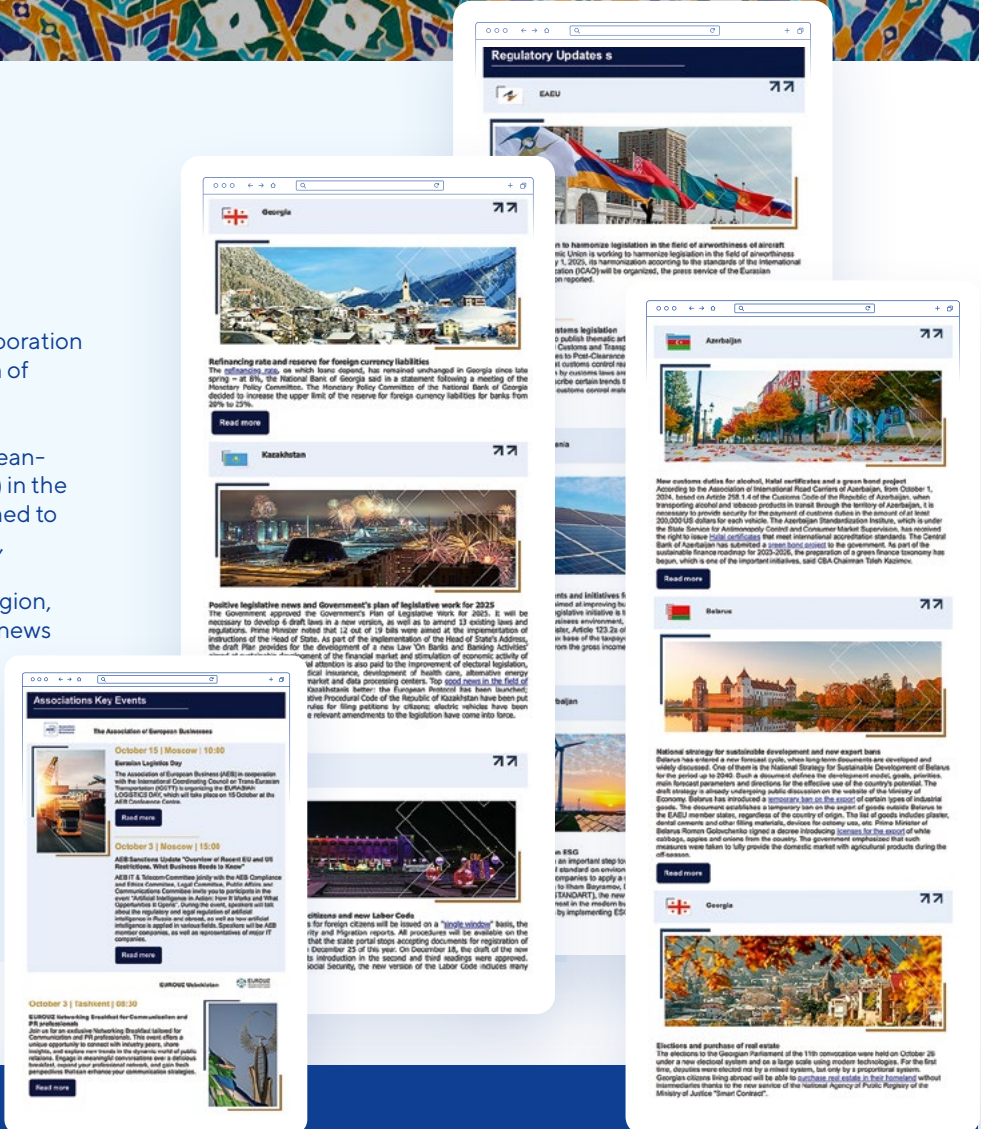


12

NEWSLETTERS

KEY FIGURES & ANALYTICS
REGULATORY UPDATES

ASSOCIATIONS' KEY NEWS
ASSOCIATIONS' KEY EVENTS



PARTNERSHIP WITH ASSOCIATIONS

In 2024 the AEB collaboration with partners in the Eurasian region intensified. It was marked by the initiation of the partnership with “Atameken”, the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Such a collaboration will enhance the ability to exchange information and implement joint projects effectively.

In 2025 AEB plans to sign a partnership agreement with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, further strengthening ties with key players in the region. The work of AEB Committees is also gaining momentum, deepening relationships with colleagues from Eurasian countries and the wider region, particularly in the area of technical regulation.

BUSINESS MISSIONS, PARTICIPATION IN FORUMS, MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS

TASHKENT INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT FORUM

On May 2-3, 2024 the AEB CEO Tadzio Schilling took part in the Tashkent International Investment Forum. This time the Forum attracted a record number of participants – 2,500 delegates from 93 countries – leaders of major foreign investment, financial and economic organizations and companies interested in integration into the dynamically developing market of Uzbekistan.



Business environment, access to market of the country, adoption of new technologies as well support programs for business were discussed within numerous sessions. The AEB CEO attended a session dedicated to IT parks in Uzbekistan and had a meeting with the Minister of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sherzod Shermatov.



EURASIAN ECONOMIC FORUM YEREVAN'24

On September 30-October 1, 2024 the 3rd Eurasian Economic Forum took place in Yerevan, Armenia, bringing together leaders from industry, government, and academia to discuss key economic issues facing the Eurasian region.

This year, the Forum was devoted to the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union and focused on strengthening partnerships among the member states.

The key topics covered the e-commerce platform development, labor market trends and policies, logistics and supply chain management as well as transport connectivity and infrastructure.

Together with several member companies, the AEB CEO Tadzio Schilling participated in the Forum to advocate European companies' needs to the supranational and national regulators from different sectors.





EUROPEAN ECONOMIC DAYS IN UZBEKISTAN

On November 6-8, 2024 the AEB delegation attended the European Economic Days in Uzbekistan.

The two-day forum, held for the first time, brought together more than 300 delegates, representatives of business, as well as government and international organizations to discuss the most pressing issues of economic cooperation.

Apart from participating in the Forum sessions, the AEB agenda in Uzbekistan was rich with collaboration with high-level officials of Uzbekistan, EUROUZ, local businesses and other stakeholders.

Also the AEB delegation had the opportunity to visit the Tashkent Technopark and IT Park.



MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION

On November 15, 2024 the AEB management had a meeting with Maxim Yermolovich, Minister for Competition and Antimonopoly Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

The parties summarized the results of interaction and outlined promising areas for cooperation. In addition, they discussed the regulation of digital markets in the EAEU.

On November 20, AEB was invited to participate in the International Scientific and Practical Conference "Digital markets in the EAEU: topical issues of research, antitrust regulation and legal support". The conference was attended by representatives of antimonopoly authorities of the EAEU member states and representatives of major electronic platforms.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION

On November 27, 2024 a meeting with Ruslan Davydov, Member of the Board (Minister) for Customs Cooperation of the EEC, took place.

The participants discussed major directions of customs regulation in the EAEU, the EEC's plans to improve customs procedures and trade facilitation in the EAEU, as well as the possibility for further cooperation, including the participation of AEB experts in the EEC's expert and working groups.

AEB GR ACADEMY

In 2024, AEB launched its signature GR Academy project. The long-term experience in GR activities, uniting the best experts from various fields within the Association and analyzing legislative changes, makes AEB one of the most effective platforms for the protection of business interests.

The goal of the Academy is to provide members with the opportunity to develop advanced GR competencies and create a platform for exchanging best practices and connecting professionals.

A series of master classes and seminars from leading experts from AEB member companies as well as invited external speakers will help listeners form an idea of the current state of the system of interaction between government and business in Russia at different levels. The GR Academy training built on the principle of “practice for practitioners” will allow to gain competencies in the practical use of GR tools in various industries.



AEB GR ACADEMY LAUNCH EVENT

On September 10, 2024 the AEB GR Academy launch event “GR is everywhere: time to change gear” took place with more than one hundred participants, reinforcing AEB’s belief in the relevance and timeliness of GR expertise and training.



AEB GR ACADEMY FIRST TRAINING SESSION

On October 10-11, 2024 the first session of the AEB GR Academy was organized. The initial cohort of trainees underwent a two-day program titled “GR management: methods and technologies of interaction with public authorities – professional development”.

The course participants comprised CEOs, heads of legal departments, PR and marketing executives. The course consists of a series of master classes, workshops and trainings. At the end of the course the participants receive a certificate, and upon completion of four courses – the AEB GR Academy graduation diploma.



“We have opened a new chapter in the almost 30 years of AEB’s history. The new GR Academy will not only provide high-impact learning and training opportunities, but it will also be the basis for a unique community of GR professionals.”

Tadzio Schilling,
AEB CEO



“The AEB GR Academy invites everyone to acquire GR competencies, learn how to explore key problems and barriers faced by companies in the regulatory environment, and develop effective GR strategies along with methods for the successful implementation of ideas.”

Olga Silnitskaya,
AEB Deputy CEO and GR Director

KEY CONFERENCES AND FORUMS

RSPP INTERNATIONAL FORUM “RUSSIA 2030”

On February 8, 2024 the AEB CEO Tadzio Schilling spoke at the RSPP International Forum “Russia 2030 and the new world economic order: key factors and the role of business” as part of the Russian Business Week. The participants shared their views and exchanged ideas regarding the future of the Russian and world economy.

The Forum was attended by Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexey Overchuk, Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov, Acting Head of the Federal Customs Service Ruslan Davydov, as well as the leadership of the EEC and business representatives.



31ST RUSSIAN PHARMACEUTICAL FORUM NAMED AFTER N.A. SEMASHKO



On May 14, 2024 Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, spoke at the plenary session of the 31st Russian Pharmaceutical Forum named after N.A. Semashko dedicated to the overview of the changes in the pharmaceutical market.

In his speech Tadzio Schilling highlighted the topics that are currently of concern to foreign business and particular pharmaceutical manufacturers in Russia – intellectual rights protection, pricing for vital and essential medicines, etc.

THE INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE OF HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE MANUFACTURER ASSOCIATIONS SUMMIT 2024

On May 17, 2024 the Annual General Meeting of The International Roundtable of Household Appliance Manufacturer Associations (IRHMA) was held in Cape Town, South Africa.

It was attended by Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, and Pavel Rudyakov, Chairman of the AEB Home Appliances Manufacturers Committee.

The meeting participants discussed key industry developments, COP29, new trends and recent regulatory changes, including CO2 reduction, the industry's contribution to improving people's lifestyles and other issues.



ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM

Within the framework of the 27th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on June 5–8, 2024 Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, took part in the session “Improving the tax system: fairness, balance, stability”. At the session “Innovative pharmaceuticals on the way to progress. How to stimulate the development of the industry?” the AEB CEO raised the issues of concern for European pharma manufacturers in Russia. Speaking at the session “The role of economic diplomacy and trade relations in Greater Eurasia in the current international environment” Tadzio Schilling shared expectations of business based on the recent AEB survey and spoke about the support that AEB offers to its members.

A number of meetings with the public authorities including those with the Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Deputy Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Governor of the Leningrad Region, State Duma representatives and other stakeholders were organized to discuss issues of pharmaceuticals, finance and taxation, economic policy, social responsibility as well as recent legislative incentives affecting European business.



EBO WORLDWIDE NETWORK SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS

On June 3-4, 2024 the AEB CEO Tadzio Schilling took part in the traditional bi-annual meeting of the European Business Organization Worldwide Network. It unites 54 European Business Organizations from around the globe, with the objective to support European business interests in markets outside the European Union.

Participants of the event held a series of meetings with officials and decision makers in Brussels and shared their views on challenges and perspectives for business in various regions of the world.



ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FORUM

On June 26-28, 2024 the 12th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum took place.

The Forum is the largest platform where, among other things, the issues of improving law enforcement practice and promoting various legislative initiatives are raised.

The AEB CEO Tadzio Schilling participated in three sessions and held meetings with important stakeholders on marketplace regulation, intellectual property rights, and other important topics.





INTERNATIONAL MOSCOW AUTOMOTIVE FORUM IMAF 2024

On August 20, 2024 the 15th International Moscow Automotive Forum IMAF 2024 was held as part of the MIMS Automobility Moscow exhibition.

The topic of the plenary session of the Forum was expanding the potential of the Russian automobile market. Experts discussed

such issues as market support in the era of global changes, regulation and alternative import markets, transformation of the dealer network after the arrival of new brands. In the area of regulation, issues of indexation of disposal fees and incentives for recycling were raised.

EASTERN ECONOMIC FORUM 2024

On September 3-5, 2024 the AEB CEO Tadzio Schilling took part in the 9th Eastern Economic Forum.

At the session "Russian auto industry: focus on the east or technological sovereignty?" Tadzio Schilling articulated the AEB position on the need to maintain a constant and open dialogue between the government and industry representatives.

For AEB, the Forum remains a platform to continue ongoing GR engagement with key stakeholders and defend the interests of its members. This time, AEB had over 60 GR touchpoints with representatives of state authorities and agencies.





BALTIC REGIONAL INVESTMENT FORUM BRIEF'24

On September 12, 2024 the key business event of the Leningrad Region, the Baltic Regional Investment Forum BRIEF'24, was organized.

Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, participated in a session of the Council for Improving the Investment Climate in the Leningrad Region dedicated to the topic of the demographic crisis. Speakers discussed what the government and businesses can do, as well as the challenges and opportunities for territorial development in the context of demographic issues.

29TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP29)

On November 16, 2024 AEB organized its first-ever round table titled "Russia on its path towards sustainability: looking for synergies between international and Russian businesses" at the COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Moderated by Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, and co-moderated by Roman Ishmukhametov, Chairman of the AEB Green Initiative, the event brought together key stakeholders to explore whether there is space for cooperation and interaction between Russian and foreign businesses in the current conditions to achieve SDGs.

On November 21, 2024 as part of the Climate Policy Day of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development, Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, moderated the panel session "Sustainable development in the coming years: institutions and incentives" organized by AEB jointly with the Agency for Strategic initiatives. In the context of the session, participants discussed current and planned approaches to forming incentive systems that will promote sustainable development at the international, national, and regional levels, as well as the harmonization of existing reporting standards and evaluation of business projects in the field of sustainable development.



XVII VERONA EURASIAN ECONOMIC FORUM

On December 4–6, 2024 Philippe Pegorier, AEB Board Deputy Chairman, and Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, participated in Verona Eurasian Economic Forum in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.

Heads of companies, state and public representatives, diplomats, experts, and journalists gathered to discuss the possibilities for developing trade and economic cooperation in the Greater Eurasian space amid the current geopolitical situation.

Continuing the AEB's green agenda and following recent participation in COP29, Tadzio Schilling moderated a session dedicated to energy and the environment. The participants in the discussion sought answers to questions such as how traditional and essential energy can be made more environmentally friendly, how the green agenda can be grounded in reality, and what roles natural gas, hydropower, and nuclear power could play in these processes. CEOs of major Russian and UAE energy and investment companies participated in the session.



COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS



INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

AGRIBUSINESS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Dirk Seelig, Managing Director, CLAAS

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

A joint event organized by the AEB Seed, Crop Protection, Agribusiness and Food Processing Committees "From Farm to Fork"

Date

28.02.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CLAAS; CNH Industrial Russia; EkoNiva-Technika; KUHN

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

2

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024, the work of the AEB Agribusiness Committee started with the "From Farm to Fork" conference, which was held for the first time with the support of all four industrial AEB Committees that are related to the agro-industrial complex.

Throughout the year, the Committee continued to actively discuss topics in the agricultural industry. However, the topic of increasing the utilization fee index emerged as a matter of the highest importance, capturing the focused attention of all Committee members.

In light of recent news regarding increases in the utilization fee for vehicles, as well as for road construction and special equipment, members of the Committee naturally anticipated a similar rise in the utilization fee for agricultural machinery. At the end of November 2024, during a public discussion of a draft government decree on the phased indexation of the utilization fee for agricultural machinery, the Committee sent a letter to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, presenting arguments against a one-time fivefold increase in the utilization fee at the initial stage. However, despite numerous appeals from various market participants, the Russian Government approved the decree, which came into effect on January 1, 2025.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade attributes the increased indexation of utilization fee to the need to stimulate the development of local, domestic agricultural machinery and to replace foreign equipment with Russian alternatives.

Import quotas will be introduced to address the shortage of domestic equipment. For machines imported under these quotas, the recycling rate will remain at the 2024 level. The AEB Agribusiness Committee will be monitoring the distribution process.

However, there is a risk of rising prices for machinery, which could complicate operations for small and medium-sized farms, especially in light of increasing interest rates on preferential loans and reduced government subsidies. To mitigate these consequences, the authorities promise to monitor prices and expand government support programs.

The Committee joined the work of the Interagency Industry Working Group (IWG) on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Machine-Building Products and Vehicles under the State Commission for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Industrial Products, chaired by A.P. Shalaev, Head of Rosstandart.

Looking ahead, the Committee will continue to advocate for the interests of its members, monitor the implementation of new regulations, and work towards ensuring a stable and sustainable agricultural sector.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

AIRLINES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

Since the beginning of 2022 the Russian airspace industry has suffered huge losses.

After the Russian banking sector felt under the restrictions, Visa and Mastercard stopped processing of their cards in Russia and cancelled processing of cards issued by Russian banks worldwide, the Central Bank of Russia prohibited bank transfers from Russia for non-resident companies registered in "non-friendly" countries, the list of which was approved by the government. More than 10,000 Russian companies and individuals including airlines and airports were sanctioned by various governments in the world. The Russian government also imposed a list of restrictions towards representatives of countries implementing sanctions. The IATA Billing and Settlement Plan system continued its operations, providing support to participating airlines in their distribution tasks. Some adjustments were made to support the industry considering various restrictions (EU, RF and others).

The European Commission suspended the EU's Visa Facilitation Agreement, the Russian side did the same on the reciprocity basis. Some EU countries completely closed their borders for travelers from Russia. Due to this and taking into account absence of air transportation with EU travel flow from Russia was limited and mainly oriented on Turkish, Asian and Middle East markets.

CHAIRPERSON

Vadim Besperstov, Manager Russia and CIS, Emirates

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Air France; Emirates; Ethiopian Airlines Group; TMG Flydubai

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

3

One of the main issues of the year for the Committee members was the question of import-export operations of aviation spare parts for supporting daily operation of the airlines which continue traffic program to/out Russia. The Russian Government Decree No. 311 does not contain exclusions for so-called "friendly" countries, thus airlines forced to solve the issues in case of an airplane on the ground (AOG) situation by transporting a so-called "aid kit" with some spare parts and tools and having an aircraft engineer on board of aircraft. The Committee drafted 2 letters to the Ministry of Transport on possible exclusions to the Government Decree No. 311 for aviation spare parts required for operational repair works in case of the AOG.

At the request of the Krasnodar region authorities, the Committee drafted proposals for the organization of a visa help desk at the Sochi airport and the simplification of the visa regime.

The letter was backed up by Flydubai's data on the positive impact of visa on arrival on passenger growth.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Alexey Kalitsev, CEO, AGR

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

AMC Press-conference "Overview 2023"

Date

11.01.2024

AEB external events

International Forum "Avtonet"

Date

24.04.2024

ROAD Press Conference

09.07.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AGR; BMW Russland Trading; Chery Automobile Rus; GAZ Group; Haval Motor Rus; Honda Motor RUS; Hyundai Motor CIS; Kia Russia & CIS; Mazda Motor Rus; MB RUS; MMC Rus; Peugeot Citroën Rus (Groupe PSA); Subaru Motor; Suzuki Motor Rus; Volvo Cars; Yamaha Motor CIS

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

54

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

10

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

Year 2024 was another year of the automobile industry transformation. Re-start of some of the available manufacturing plants and increase in the local production in many cases defined the industry landscape and formed the working agenda.

Government initiatives to motivate and support localization processes, such as new regulations for the cars imported from the CIS countries, gradual increase in the disposal fee rates, high key rates set by the Central Bank, etc. led to the huge increase in sales, slowed down parallel imports and pushed high car import by the official importers. The variety of the models available on the market raised too. In general, the number of market players used to be unstable.

Over the year the Committee had to react to the challenges mentioned above and continued supporting its members trying to find new horizons.

Press releases issued on a monthly basis provided the stakeholders and the external audience with the expert evaluation of the market situation. The Committee shifted from publishing detailed sales data to industry comments. Press monitoring and changes in the mass media landscape were of great importance for the Committee.

Throughout the year the Committee focused on the following industry issues:

- › state support measures;
- › disposal fee increase;
- › certification procedures and technical regulations;
- › consumer support;
- › aftersales services and logistics;
- › used cars.

Special attention of the Committee was paid to the improvement of the procedures of the recall campaigns normally held by the car manufacturers. The Committee initiated the discussion of ways to reach out to the end-owners of the cars under recall campaigns. One of the possible options could be the involvement of the insurance companies and the respective regulator. At the same time the Committee provided a negative comment to the attempts to use the System of Digital Passports of Vehicles for this purpose.

Identification of vehicles imported to Russia was in the interest of the Committee and its members too. It is believed that there is no need to test every imported car, but to check only those which are imported on the basis of the type approvals which the official manufacturers/distributors trusted to other importers.

The Committee initiated and participated in the discussions regarding calculation of the power of hybrid vehicles. This is of a special importance for calculating the exile tax and other payments.

The Motorcycle Manufacturers Subcommittee monitored the situation on the motorcycle market and analyzed available statistics in order to identify different sources of the motorcycles supply to Russia.

In 2024, the Committee held an annual press conference where results of the year 2023 and an industry forecast for 2024 were announced.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

BANKING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

Committee members actively participated in preparations of high-level meetings with the federal executive authorities and also took part in discussions of the most important issues within AEB. Committee members also took part in preparation and organization of the high-level meeting with Central Bank Governor E. Nabiullina.

Committee members were also active in discussing joint topics with other AEB Committees, such as international payments, cashbackers, acquiring.

The Working Group on AML, Compliance and Internal Control Issues actively resumed its work, the Chair was elected, and Committee meetings were held, including a joint meeting with the Banking Committee Working Group on Legal Issues.

CHAIRPERSON

Mikhail Chaikin, General Director, ING BANK (EURASIA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

American Express Bank; Banca Intesa; Bank Credit Suisse (Moscow); BNP Paribas Bank JSC; Center-invest Bank; Citibank; Commerzbank (Eurasija); Credit Agricole CIB; Credit Europe Bank; Deutsche Bank Ltd.; Khvoya Bank; ING Wholesale Banking in Russia; Natixis Bank JSC; OTP Bank JSC; Raiffeisenbank; Rosbank; UniCredit Bank; VISA

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

8

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

8

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Dmitry Serbin, Project General Manager, Government Regulation Department, Komatsu CIS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Caterpillar Eurasia; Hitachi Construction Machinery Eurasia; Komatsu CIS; Liebherr Russland; United Industrial

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

5

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

The AEB Construction Equipment Committee continues to actively discuss and address various topics related to the construction equipment market.

In 2024, the work was focused on several key topics.

The attention was directed to the draft decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) "On Amendments to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union 'On the Safety of Machinery and Equipment' (TR CU 010/2011)". The main changes relevant to this regulation include:

- › the cancellation of declarations with a transition solely to certification;
- › the mandatory presence of VIN/PIN for all certifiable machines;
- › the specification of a large number of technical parameters for all model modifications in the certificate annex.

In this regard, the Committee prepared and sent several letters with comments and proposals, the main purpose of which is constructive discussion and consideration of comments when agreeing on the final version of the decision.

The increase in utilization fees for special equipment has sparked widespread discussion among the Committee members. As of July 1, 2024, a government decree came into effect, establishing an increase in indexing for a number of categories of special equipment. Specifically, the utilization fee for dump trucks with an engine power of 650 to 1750 hp will double for new machines (up to 14.4 million rubles), and for used ones, it will increase by nearly 2.3 times (up to 20.7 million rubles). For machines with an engine power exceeding 1750 hp, the utilization fee will increase by 2.3 times (up to 24 million rubles) and by 2.5 times (up to 29.3 million rubles), respectively. Committee members believe that the increase in fees for imported equipment makes it more expensive, which, in turn, reduces the competitiveness of foreign manufacturers. This opens up opportunities for domestic companies, making their products more attractive in the domestic market.

Considering the active development of the list of standards for the Technical Regulation TR CU 010/2010, Committee members expressed interest in the work of the Technical Committee TC-MTC 267 "Construction and Road Machines and Equipment". This Committee addresses issues related to the development of modern standards for road construction and special equipment.

The Committee continues to actively work on pressing issues concerning the safety of machinery and equipment, as well as interact with various government bodies to improve the conditions for foreign businesses in the field of road construction and special equipment.

The Committee continued its work on solving the technical problems related to the issuance of the electronic passports for self-propelled vehicles. In this regard, the Committee prepared the letter to EEC on the draft decision of the Board of the EEC "On Amendments to the Procedure for the Operation of Electronic Passports of Vehicles (Electronic Passports of Vehicle Chassis) and Electronic Passports of Self-Propelled Machines and Other Types of Equipment". The letter suggested clarifications of certain fields in electronic passports.

The Committee stays the member of the Committee of the European Construction Equipment (CECE), which allows to stay tuned on the current trends of the European and global market of construction equipment.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY & BUILDING MATERIAL SUPPLIERS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

The Committee represents within the AEB a variety of businesses with very heterogeneous industrial and commercial backgrounds and with a diversity of interests but with construction materials as a common bound. This Committee was established in 2010 in belief that there are many matters that need to be monitored, shared and discussed in order to improve business climate in the industry.

In 2024, the Committee's interests were centered around the following issues:

- › state control of building materials and products;
- › housing construction policy, preferential mortgages and other government programs;
- › the coming labeling of dry building mixes and introduction of the "Chestniy Znak" T&T system;
- › environment protection regulation;
- › standards on "green" construction;
- › elaboration of a standard on ecological declaration of building materials and technologies;
- › application of best available technologies in the field of waste management;
- › equipment and spare parts supply issues;
- › international payments mechanisms.

The Committee worked to improve interaction with ministries and agencies, as well as other industry associations.

CHAIRPERSON

Vitaly Bogachenko, Director of Corporate Relations and Sustainable Development, Cementum

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Dmitry Tesakov, HeidelbergCement Rus

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Open meeting with CRPT (on dry mixes labeling)

Date

14.05.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BASF; Cementum; Ceramic Solutions Rus; Daccord; Eberspaecher Climate Control Systems Rus; HeidelbergCement Rus; Knauf Group CIS; LARTA GLASS; PPG Tikkurila; ROCA GROUP; Роквул; Saint-Gobain; SLK Cement

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

5

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

4

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

CROP PROTECTION COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Varvara Oglezneva, CEO, SumiAgro Russia

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADAMA; BASF; BAYER; SIPCAM; SumiAgro; Syngenta;
Synthesia Chemi

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

30

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

12

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 Committee activities focused on a key issue – planned introduction of quotas for pesticide import to Russia. It is a sensitive measure of pesticide import regulation for all international CPP manufacturers. Committee representatives participated in discussions with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and other stakeholders, first with the main business associations and unions, uniting agricultural producers for whom pesticides are one of the key means of production: Sugar, Potato, Fruit and Vegetables, Berry, etc. Committee efforts aimed to establish clear and transparent tools of the non-tariff measure of regulation pesticide import to Russia. Further discussion will be continued on the platform of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

Two other important issues are optimization of CPP state registration procedure and establishing regular approval of Hygienic Standards to determine residues of pesticide active substances in environmental objects. They were actively discussed in the framework of the regulatory guillotine mechanism.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the Energy Committee paid particular attention to the following topics: challenges and growth points in the Russian oil & gas, strategies of gas export from Russia as well as trends of mining and oilfield service markets.

On November 14, the current oil export issues and biofuel prospects were discussed at the closed meeting at the Gubkin University. The event has facilitated a dialogue between business and academic community on energy market matters.

The Committee had an intense cooperation with the AEB Green Initiative on carbon regulation and other climate issues.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chevron Neftegaz Moscow Branch; Eni S.p.A; MOL-Russ; Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Total E&P Russie; Uniper Global Commodities SE; VNG AG

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

2

AEB maintains traditional cooperation with the Russian Energy Agency: a meeting of the AEB leadership with Alexey Kulapin, Head of the Russian Energy Agency, was held at SPIEF-2024.

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB external events

Open Round Table "Carbon Management: Deep Dive" (joint event with AEB Green Initiative, SHES Committee)

Date

08.10.2024

"Russian oil & gas sector – main challenges and growth points"

14.11.2024

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

FOOD PROCESSING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024, a special focus of the Committee's work was supporting member companies confronting the volatile economic and regulatory environment with a purpose to ensure uninterrupted production and import of food products to the Russian market. The Committee was actively involved, led discussions and drafted letters on Russian and EAEU technical regulation related to digital labelling and on such cross-sectoral issues as waste management, import tariffs, tax deductions and price regulation.

The Committee co-organized a "From Farm to Fork" open event on 28 February. Committee members also took an active part in the development of AEB position on legal regulation of marketplaces with a focus on consumer product safety and right holders protection.

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

5

CHAIRPERSON

Tatiana Tkachenko, Public Affairs Director, H&N

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

"From Farm to Fork"

Date

28.02.2024

"Trademark holders rights protection in e-commerce: current practice and regulatory perspectives"

28.03.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Almi Russia; Bacardi; Barry Callebaut; Bayer; Bonduelle; Campari; Cargill; Ehrman; Ekoniva; Ferrero Russia; Filippo Berio; Jacobs Douwe Egberts Rus; H&N; Haleon; Herbalife Nutrition; Heineken Breweries; Mars; KraftHeinz; Mondelez; Multon Partners; Nestle Rossiya; PepsiCo; Perfetti van Melle; Pernod Ricard Rouss; SAF-Neva; Unilever; Zentis Russland

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

HEALTH & PHARMACEUTICALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Yana Kotukhova, Government Affairs and Communications Director in Russia and EAEU, Servier

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

	Date
Meeting with Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Healthcare of Russia	01.02.2024
Meeting with Sergey Glagolev, Deputy Minister of Healthcare of Russia	31.10.2024
Meeting with Yury Zubov, Head of Rospatent	17.12.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Aristo Pharma; Astellas Pharma; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; BAYER; BIOCAD; Bionorica; Boehringer Ingelheim; Canon Medical Systems; Chiesi Pharmaceuticals; Egis Pharmaceuticals PLC (Hungary); Fidia Pharma; GE Healthcare; GlaxoSmithKline Trading; Haleon Rus; Heel Russia; Ipsen; Karl Storz; Karl Zeiss; Lundbeck Rus; Merck; MirVracha; Nizhpharm; Novartis Group Russia; Novo Nordisk; Philips; Procter & Gamble; Reckitt Benkiser Healthcare; Roche Diagnostics Rus; Roche Moscow; Sandoz; Sanofi Russia; Samsung; Siemens Healthcare; Servier; Teva; TRB Chemedica; Varian Medical Systems (Rus)

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

5

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

21

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

The most important GR issues for pharmaceutical companies were the following:

- › protection of intellectual property rights of pharmaceutical producers – necessity to set criteria on insufficient use of patents;
- › compulsory licensing by the Government, criteria and approach of the intergovernmental commission;
- › EDL (essential drugs lists) pricing and mechanism of price re-registration in case of shortage due to the price (Government Decree No.1771) and routine price indexation (Government Decree No. 865);
- › Amendments to Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 871 and relaunch of EDL commissions' meetings;
- › the impact of EU sanctions on the pharmaceutical industry;
- › possibilities to expand drug provision within the framework of the federal project "Fight against cardiovascular diseases";
- › prolongation of state financing of oncological care within the framework of the national project "Long and active life";
- › access to data for pharmaceutical producers;
- › traceability of raw materials and API;
- › counteraction measures against illegal sale of medicines on marketplaces and internet sites;
- › cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission on health issues.

The Committee's issues were addressed at high-level AEB briefings and Committee's meetings with Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Healthcare of Russia; Sergey Glagolev, Deputy Minister of Healthcare of Russia; Irina Krupnova, Head of the licensing and control of observance of mandatory requirements of Roszdravnadzor; Maxim Shaskolskiy, Head of the Federal Antimonopoly Service of Russia; Badma Bashankaev, the State Duma; Yury Zubov, Head of the Federal Service for Intellectual Property; Ekaterina Priezheva, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade; Egor Zhavoronkov, Head of the Pharma Product Group (CRTP).

Committee's issues were presented at the external events: Semashko Russian Pharmaceutical Forum; Drug Safety Forum (SPIEF); Forum "National Healthcare Congress" (by Roscongress); Expert Council Meeting by FAS; International

Scientific and Practical Conference "Antimonopoly Policy – Science, Practice and Education", Higher School of Economics; Eastern Economic Forum; Eurasian Economic Days (Tashkent).

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

HOME APPLIANCES MANUFACTURERS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the AEB Home Appliances Manufacturers Committee focused on such issues as traceability labelling regulation "Chestniy Znak", F-gases regulation, energy efficiency labelling, technical regulations, waste management, digital user guides, as well as enhanced its international cooperation with IRHMA members (APPLiA, CHEAA, KEA).

The Committee sent 32 lobbying requests to the state authorities of the Russian Federation as well as EAEU, the majority of which was related to "Chestniy Znak" and F-gases regulation.

The main results of the Committee's activities in 2024 are as follows:

- › The Ministry of Industry and Trade has paused the introduction of traceability labels for electronic spare parts and components. Additional discussions with the FTS have started, and AEB has led six associations and signed a letter with them to increase influence on the government.
- › Excluding the EAEU energy regulation requirements to provide QR codes on energy labels and the requirements to provide spare parts to customers for self-repair, the EAEU Commission plans to postpone the regulation implementation date by two years, until 2027.
- › Excluding the requirement in Uzbek packaging regulations to add a color recycling logo on the packaging (it is possible to add black and white as is common internationally), there will be a longer transition period of 18 months instead of 3 months.
- › Belarus has reintroduced energy certification requirements with a transition period of 3 months, which is the minimum we requested.
- › After intensive discussions, Russian authorities finally canceled the rule requiring a license for products with mixed F-gases, such as R-410A, which was suddenly introduced without any regulations, based solely on an explanation letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

CHAIRPERSON

Pavel Rudyakov, Technical Regulation Manager, Samsung

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Meeting with Ekaterina Priezzheva, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, on the issue of labelling spare parts and components with the "Chestniy Znak" labelling

Date

15.10.2024

Energy efficiency technical regulation for energy consuming appliances: application of TR EAEU 048/2019 and European best practices

04.12.2024

AEB external events

Annual General Meeting of IRHMA (The International Roundtable of Household Appliance Manufacturer Associations)

Date

17.05.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ariston Thermo Rus; Brother; BOSCH Group; Daccord; Delonghi; Groupe SEB-Vostok; Kaercher; Liebherr; Mitsubishi Electric; Nikon; Philips; Procter & Gamble; Samsung; SMEG; Systeme Electric; Tenacta; Versuni; Yamaha Music

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

5

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

32

The energy efficiency regulation:

- › The Committee organized an Annual Energy Efficiency Conference for the 5th time, which proved to serve as a platform for dialogue between the Eurasian Economic Commission and experts from Gosstandard of Belarus, IRHMA members like APPLiA, CHEAA, KEA, colleagues from Kazstandard (Kazakhstan State Standardization Body).
- › Interactions with the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade were strengthened.

The AEB Heating Systems Manufacturers Working Group activities in 2024:

- › In 2024, the WG held four meetings in which the members exchanged their views on the current market situation in Russia and its trends, considering the current economic situation.
- › The WG members discussed the issues and challenges their companies had faced during the year.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

HOTELS & TOURISM COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Stanislav Kondov, Cluster General Manager, Radisson Collection Hotel Moscow

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Accor Groupe; Ararat Park Hotel Moscow; Astoria Hotel Complex St. Petersburg; Hilton Russia (USA) Branch; Hotel Astoria, a Rocco Forte Hotel; Hotel Angleterre, St Petersburg; Hotel Baltschug Kempinski Moscow/Baltschug Ltd.; International Hotel Investments (Benelux) B.V. (Corinthia Hotel); Mercure Ibis Adajio Moscow Centre Bakhrushina; Metropol Hotel Moscow ("MC "Okhotny Ryad"); MICE Excellence; PARK HUAMING (Soluxe Hotel Moscow); Radisson Collection Hotel Moscow; Swissotel Krasnye Kholmy Moscow

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

3

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

The AEB Hotels & Tourism Committee and the AEB Airlines Committee organized a joint meeting at the beginning of the year and discussed the development of the aviation and tourism markets in the CIS.

The main topics discussed by the Committee in 2024 were:

- › Guest profile. Most of the guests came from Arab countries (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc.). This fact affects the timing of breakfast service, housekeeping, room service, etc.
- › The war conflicts in the Middle East affected the number of visitors from Arab countries.
- › The cost of toiletries has increased for various reasons, such as changes in product brands, logistics costs or theft by staff or guests.
- › Deposit. It's not regulated by law, creating potential litigation risks and negative customer feedback.
- › Staff shortages and immigration checks.
- › Non-refundable fees. According to the draft law initiated by the Ministry of Economic Development, from 1 March 2025 it will be possible to conclude a contract with a consumer for the provision of hotel services on the condition of a non-refundable payment at the end of the contract.
- › Methods of payment. Due to the withdrawal of Visa/Mastercard as a payment method, most guests bring cash. A bank card for foreigners was tested as an experiment during 2024.
- › Several new ways of registering guests were introduced in 2024.
- › More RF regions have introduced a resort fee.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

INSURANCE & PENSIONS
COMMITTEECOMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

Among the topics which were considered by the Committee in 2024 were:

- › IT outsourcing;
- › changing the requirements for the business reputation of officials of insurance companies;
- › 422-FZ;
- › 55-FZ;
- › Agreement on AIS Insurance, including the obligation to conduct an annual information security audit;
- › law on organization of insurance activities;
- › digital financial assets;
- › cybersecurity;
- › draft law on the establishment of a risk management and internal control system in insurance organizations;
- › notifications on IT incidents and personal data leaks;
- › Eurasian Reinsurance Company;
- › Russian national reinsurance company;
- › automobile third party liability insurance;
- › ESG;
- › shared life insurance.

The Committee also held several productive meetings with government authorities to discuss draft laws and laws that have entered into force. Committee members actively collaborated with other AEB Committees (Legal and Banking), including joint letter writing and event organization.

The 2024 pension conference concluded successfully, with the Central Bank of Russia participating as one of the speakers.

CHAIRPERSON

Marina Sotova, CEO, Thuricum Insurance Company

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

"Real Estate Insurance"

Date

13.02.2024

AEB Pension Conference "NPF in the conditions of pension reform. Trends and prospects"

03.12.2024

AEB external events

Date

Meeting with CBR Department of Informational Security on draft law on IT outsourcing

29.01.2024

Meeting with the CBR Director of Insurance Market Department I. Smirnov

21.05.2024,
31.07.2024

Meeting with Chair of the State Duma Committee on Financial Markets A. Aksakov on IT outsourcing and insurance companies reputation

01.07.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

B1; Capitolina Tourbina; Chubb Insurance Company; GARDIA Insurance Company; GERSA; Kucher Kuleshov Maximenko & Partners (KKMP); Pension solutions NPF; Protecta Trade Insurance; RB Life Insurance; SCOR Moscow Representative Office; SEAMLESS Legal; SOGAZ Insurance Group; Thuricum Insurance Company; T-Insurance; Zetta Life

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

12

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

11

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

IT & TELECOM COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Maria Ostashenko, Partner, ALRUD Law firm

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

	Date
"Localization in IT"	24.01.2024
"Sanctions update"	01.03.2024, 02.07.2024
"Artificial intelligence in action: how it works and what opportunities it offers"	02.10.2024
"Personal data 2024: in search of balance"	07.11.2024

AEB external events

	Date
Meeting with RKN (Y. Kontemirov)	31.01.2024
Meeting with Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media (S. Kuchushev)	23.10.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

5

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

9

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

Throughout the year, the main topics that affected the majority of AEB members were discussed at the meetings: personal data, artificial intelligence, sanctions, online advertising labeling, IT accreditation and localization.

The Committee also held a number of events on the most pressing topics and participated in the work of other Committees. All events had high levels of attendance and active discussion.

In 2024, the Committee successfully held meetings with Roskomnadzor and representatives of the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALRUD Law Firm; B1; Bacardi Russia; Boehringer Ingelheim; Brother; Cargill; Caterpillar Eurasia; COMMERZBANK (EURASIJA); EPAM Law Offices; GARDIA Insurance Company; GE Healthcare; GROUPE SEB-VOSTOK; JTI Russia; Kappa RUS; Khvoya Bank; Lemana PRO; MB RUS; Mega Service; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; Mikenopa; Morgan Lewis; Orange Business Services; Oriflame; Pepeliaev Group; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Procter & Gamble; Raiffeisenbank; Samsung Electronics; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Taglex; VEGAS LEX; Yves Rocher Vostok

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

RETAIL TRADE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the Committee paid special attention to the following issues:

- › several drafted amendments of the Law on Trade on price regulation;
- › draft law on Russian shelf, intention to fix shares of Russian goods in trade assortment;
- › online trade issues, including regulation of marketplaces, links to the Register of certificates, and those related to brands protection;
- › regulation of the alcohol and tobacco products turnover;
- › BNPL (installment services);
- › cashback abuse practices;
- › acquiring rates;
- › food sharing.

The Committee actively cooperated with the AEB Non-Food FMCG Working Group and the AEB Food Processing Committee, also taking part in the AEB inter-committee activities.

The Committee pursued external communications with governmental officials and other associations (e.g. through organizing open meetings with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Roskachestvo). The Committee stayed represented in the Expert Councils of the Federal Antimonopoly Service on the development of competition in retail trade and on the development of competition in the alcoholic beverages markets.

The Committee's positions on the issues were effectively conveyed to relevant stakeholders in the Russian Government and Parliament, resulting in the Committee's work contributing to positive outcomes: several draft laws introducing excessive trade regulations were dropped.

At its December meeting, the Committee revised and made adjustments to its working mode and defined priorities for 2025.

CHAIRPERSON

Alexey Grigoriev, Director Public Policy, METRO Russia

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Alexander Perekrest, GR Lead, Lamoda

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events	Date
Meeting with Yulia Yudina, MIT	21.06.2024
Meetings with the Bank of Russia	28.08.2024; 29.08.2024
Meeting with the Bank of Russia (jointly with the Association of Internet Trade and the Association of the Russian Banks)	07.11.2024
Meeting with Maxim Protasov, Roskachestvo	27.12.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Auchan Russia; Hyperglobus; Lamoda; Lemana PRO; METRO Cash&Carry; Mega Service; M.Video; New Fashion; Oniverse Group (Calzedonia); Selgros

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

16

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

20

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

SEED COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Igor Bruevich, CEO, KWS RUS

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Denis Zhuravsky, Director for Public-Private Partnerships in Russia, Syngenta

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BASF; BAYER; KWS; Limagrain; Syngenta

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

15

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

9

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the Committee continued to concentrate efforts on new regulations of seed industry. One of the key issues is quotas on seed imports from the European Union introduced in the very beginning of the year. This tool of seed market regulation carries significant risks for the country's food security. Quotas could only be obtained by companies that provided the Ministry of Agriculture with a letter of guarantee on localization of seed production. Another issue was the import of seeds of parental lines. The customs codes of parental line seeds and commercial seeds coincide. In January-March the Committee applied to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Customs Service with a request to allow import of parental line seeds reasoned on the importance of parental line seeds for further localization of seed production in Russia and impossibility to organize parental line seeds production in a short time. Unfortunately, the explanations were not taken into consideration. The absence of quotas for commercial seeds meant that it was impossible to import seeds of parental lines.

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

COMPLIANCE & ETHICS
COMMITTEECOMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

At the Committee meetings invited experts talked about the compliance real-life experiences, challenges and best practices. An active discussion on the following topics took place at the meetings:

- › conflict of interest (concepts and types, settlement methods, the importance of communicating settlement objectives to employees; experience in digitalization of conflict-of-interest management, conflict of interest among employees of an organization, healthcare professionals in resolving of the conflict of interest; legal aspects of conflict of interest, the Central Asia experience);
- › risk assessment;
- › compliance ambassadors' programs, companies' experience;
- › investigations (how to find out the truth; multidisciplinary approach to investigations in finance, audit).

On October 2, 2024 an open event "Artificial intelligence in action: how it works and what opportunities it offers" was jointly organized together with the AEB IT & Telecom Committee, Legal Committee and PR & Communications Committee. During the event, AEB members as well as guest speakers provided an overview of the current AI legislation in Russia and the EU, discussed risks associated with AI, and shared opportunities that AI offers in various applications.

On November 7, 2024 a joint event "Personal data 2024: in search of balance" was organized together with the AEB IT & Telecom Committee and the AEB Labor Law Subcommittee. The experts discussed methods of working with personal data within a company, trends in Russian regulation of personal data, and practical difficulties in applying the law on personal data.

CHAIRPERSON

Ekaterina Cheburkova, Compliance Director RU&BCCA, PepsiCo

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Hayk Aleksanyan, GR Manager, Nizhpharm

Roman Butenko, Counsel, Melling, Voitishkin & Partners

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Joint event "Artificial Intelligence in Action: How It Works and What Opportunities It Opens" organized with the IT & Telecom Committee, Legal Committee, and PR & Communications Committee

Date

02.10.2024

Joint event "Personal data 2024: in search of balance" organized jointly with the AEB IT & Telecom Committee and the AEB Labor Law Subcommittee

07.11.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; Air France; Akzo Nobel Coatings; ALRUD Law Firm; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; B1; BAYER; Boehringer Ingelheim; BOSCH Group; BRAND & PARTNERS; Buhler Service; Center-invest Bank; Ceramic Solutions Rus; Coleman Group; Credit Agricole CIB; Daccord; DHL Express; EPAM Law Offices; Expo Mobility; FCM Leasing; GARDIA Insurance Company; GERSA; H&N; HeidelbergCement Rus; International Tobacco Group; ITMS Russia; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; Karl Storz (KSTE WOSTOK); Kept; Kesarev; Khvoya Bank; KT&G Global Rus; Limagrains RU; MB RUS; Merck; Melling; Voitishkin & Partners; METRO Cash&Carry; M.Video; New Fashion; Nextons; Novo Nordisk; Pepeliaev Group; PepsiCo; Peugeot Citroën Rus (Groupe PSA); Philips; Procter & Gamble; Protecta Trade Insurance; Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); Risk Advisory Group Ltd; Roche Diagnostics Rus; POKBYЛ; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SERVIER; Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Syngenta; T-Insurance; Thuricum Insurance Company; TotalEnergies EP Russie; UniCredit Bank; Unilever Rus

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

CUSTOMS & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Wilhelmina Shavshina, Partner, Global Trade and Customs Regulation Leader, B1 Group

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Alexander Perrote, Customs Project Manager, LE MONLID

Vadim Zakharenko, IRU General Delegate to Eurasia

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events	Date
Round table of AEB, JETRO & JBC	29.02.2024
AEB round table "Transport logistics and customs declaration: formalization and dispute resolution" at TransRussia	20.03.2024
AEB Customs Conference	11.04.2024
Cold Chain Eurasian Conference	19.09.2024
AEB-ICCTT Logistics Day	15.10.2024

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

Committee members and experts took active part in the work of:

- › The EEC Expert groups on Customs Value, on Customs Duties Payment, on Authorized Economic Operator discussing the EEU Customs Code and Customs Regulation.
- › The Permanent Commissions of the Expert Advisory Council under the FCS discussing practical issues of customs valuation, customs duties administration and control, prevention of customs offences and many other issues.
- › Business Dialogue on customs administration (RSPP, Delovaya Rossia, Opora Rossii, Russian Chamber of Commerce) to form consolidated business-associations' approach on the most important customs issues like amendments to the EEU Customs Code, Federal Law FZ-289 on Customs Regulation re bonded warehouses, pseudo-transit, container transportation and other issues.

Within the framework of the work of the Committee, a Working Group on logistics was established. The members of the WG organized four meetings, published the AEB "Business Quarterly" on logistics, organized the AEB-ICCTT Logistics Day with the participation of high-ranking representatives of the Ministry of Transport, Russian infrastructure logistics companies, top management of AEB logistics companies, intensified cooperation with ICCTT on logistics events and exchange of speakers for AEB and ICCTT events, such as TransRussia, Cold Chain Eurasia, COP-29.

A Customs Valuation Working Group was established to discuss and draft letters to government authorities on issues related to the inclusion of dividends, royalties and other payments in customs value, tax reconstruction, reclassification practice and other customs valuation issues.

A Working Group on Alternative Jurisdiction was set up to discuss with the Federal Customs and Tax Services the possibility of appeals in customs and tax disputes in the region of a company's registration. This work was supported by the RSPP and the Business Dialogue participants.

The members of the Committee initiated discussions with MinFin and the Federal Customs Service on the possibility of submitting unlimited data and documents in case of customs control, proposed to issue one decision per one result of a customs control instead of appealing on each corrected customs declaration by the FTS. The cost of appeals increased dramatically due to the changes in the Taxation Code of the RF.

The members of the Committee will continue to monitor the development of customs legislation and law enforcement practice.

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB external events	Date	AEB external events	Date
Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting	31.01.2024	ICCTT Round Table "Transport Systems of the CIS, EAEU, SCO: Integration and Transformation in New Political, Financial and Economic Conditions"	29.03.2024
EEC WG on Customs Valuation	01.02.2024		
RSPP Forum	08.02.2024	EG meeting with MinFin & FTS re new customs charge for correction of customs declarations	12.04.2024
EEC WG meeting on Customs Code of the EAEU	14.02.2024	Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting	22.04.2024
Meeting of the Standing Commission on Classification re sustainable classification practice of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia	20.02.2024	Meeting with N.Zolkin, MinFin, on pseudo-transit in connection to the changes to the EAEU Customs Code	25.04.2024
Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting	21.02.2024	EEC WG meeting on amendments to the EAEU Customs Code	26.04.2024
EEC WG meetings on amendments to the EAEU Customs Code	26.02-01.03.2024	Meeting with MinFin re amendments to the EAEU Customs Code on containers transportation and pseudo-transit	21.05.2024
Meeting with MinFin, MinTrans, MinAgro, MinProm, FTS on pseudo-transit	05.03.2024	EEC WG meeting on AEO	23.05.2024
EEC WG on AEO meeting	11.03.2024	Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting	24.05.2024
Meeting with MinFin, MinTrans, MinAgro, MinProm, FTS on pseudo-transit	11.03.2024	Meeting of the Standing Commissions on Classification and Country of Origin of Goods of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia	19.06.2024
Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting with participation of R. Davydov, Head of the Federal Customs Service of Russia	22.03.2024	Meeting of the Standing Commission on Prevention of Customs Offences of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia	20.06.2024
EEC WG meeting on customs payments	26.03.2024	Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting	26.06.2024
EEC WG meetings on amendments to the EAEU Customs Code	27.03.2024	AEO Forum and a meeting of the EEC WG on AEO	03-04.07.2024
Meeting of the Standing Commission on Prevention of Customs Offences of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia	28.03.2024	Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting	25.07.2024

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB external events

Joint meeting of EEC WGs on the AEO and on Customs Declaration

Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting

Meeting of the Standing Commission for Collection and Administration of Customs and Other Payments of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia

Seminar "Possibilities of using transfer pricing documentation (TPD) for the purposes of determining the goods customs value" with participation of representatives of the EEC, the Federal Taxation Service and the Federal Customs Service

Meeting of the Standing Commission on Organization of Customs Operations of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia

Meeting of the Standing Commission on Classification and Country of Origin of Goods of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia

Meeting with N. Zolkin, MinFin, on court appeal on customs disputes, alternative jurisdiction for customs and tax court cases

Meeting with MinFin and FTS of the AEB WG on Categorization re Order No. 29-n

Date

11.09.2024

12.09.2024

16.09.2024

19.09.2024

25.09.2024

25.09.2024

10.10.2024

16.10.2024

AEB external events

Meeting of the EEC WG on Customs Valuation

Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting

Meeting with the EEC, MinFin re amendments to the Customs Code on pseudo-transit

Round Table on Low-Carbon Future of Eurasian Transportation Routes of COP29

Meeting with MinFin on proposal on alternative jurisdictions on customs appeals

Meeting with R. Davydov, EEC Minister on Customs Cooperation

ICCTT plenary meeting on logistics issues

Business Dialogue on customs administration meeting

Meeting of the Standing Commission on collection and administration of customs duties of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia

Meeting of the Standing Commission on prevention of customs offences of the Expert Advisory Council of the Federal Customs Service of Russia

Date

21.10.2024

25.10.2024

12.11.2024

13.11.2024

14.11.2024

27.11.2024

03.12.2024

24.12.2024

25.12.2024

25.12.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; AGR; Air Liquide; Akzo Nobel Coatings; Alfa Laval Potok; Almi; ALRUD Law Firm; ALUMNI Partners; Astros Logistics; B1; Bacardi Russia; BAYER; Beiersdorf; BLCONS GROUP; BMW Russland Trading; Boehringer Ingelheim; Brother; Calzedonia; CAMPARI RUS; Cargill; Caterpillar Eurasia; Ceramic Solutions Rus; Chiesi Pharmaceuticals; CLAAS; Commonwealth Partnership (CMWP); Delonghi; Denuo; Denuo Branch in St. Petersburg; DHL Express; EkoNiva-Technika Holding (part of EkoNiva group); EPAM Law Offices; Evonik; Ferrero Russia; GE Healthcare; GROUPE SEB-VOSTOK; H&N; Haleon Rus; Heel Rus; HERBALIFE NUTRITION; Herinckx Trade Solutions; Hitachi Construction Machinery Eurasia; Honda Motor RUS; Ikon Tyres, Ltd; International Road Transport Union, Permanent Delegation to Eurasia; International Tobacco Group; ITMS Russia; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; JETRO; JTI Russia; Kappa RUS; Kept; Kesarev; Knauf Group CIS; KraftHeinz Vostok Ltd; KT&G Global Rus; Law Company TAXOLOGY; Lemana PRO; Lex Borealis; Lidings Law Offices; L'Oreal; M.Video; Mars; Mega Service; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; METRO Cash&Carry; Mitsubishi Electric (Russia); MMC Rus; Mondelez; Multon Partners; Nestle Rossiya; New Fashion; Nextons; Nikon Russia; Nizhpharm; NOYTECH Logistics Rus; Pepeliaev Group; Perfetti Van Melle Co., Ltd; Peugeot Citroën Rus (Groupe PSA); Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; Pirelli Tyre Russia; Porsche Russland; Procter & Gamble; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); ROCA GROUP; POKBYJ; Saint-Gobain; Samsung Electronics; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; SERVIER; Shevyrev and partners, Bureau of attorneys; Siemens Healthcare; Sumi Agro; Suzuki Motor Rus; Systeme Electric; Taglex; Tenacta; Thuricum Insurance Company; Top Lubricants; TORG; TRANSLOGIX; UNITED INDUSTRIAL; VEGAS LEX; Vendor Green Rus; Versuni; WELLGO Group; Yamaha Music; Zentis Russland; Zetta Life

NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

17
(including WG meetings)

NUMBER OF LOBBYING LETTERS

13

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

FINANCE & INVESTMENTS
COMMITTEECOMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024, the Committee focused on providing timely and qualified information support and served as a platform for discussion on the sanctions and countermeasures. The Committee held 9 webinars on sanctions, countermeasures, macroeconomics and results of the AEB annual business climate survey; 1 conference "The Russian M&A Market in 2024: Is the Boom Over?" in a hybrid format; 1 offline event on cross-border payments.

Since the beginning of 2022, the AEB Finance & Investments Committee has been a platform for discussing sanctions, regulatory and economic updates in a series of regular webinars "Crisis Update: Sanctions and Countermeasures". As the contours of the new world take shape, it was decided in mid-2024 to adjust the branding of these webinars to the new reality by abandoning the "crisis" reference and to title them AEB Marco Update, AEB Regulatory Update and AEB Sanctions Update. This series of webinars was in great demand among members of the Association, consistently gathered a large audience.

In addition, the Committee organized two open offline meetings jointly with the IT & Telecom Committee on updates under the 12th EU sanctions package and EU FAQs in part of IT and services.

On May 23, 2024 the Committee held the second M&A Conference which served as a one-stop event and gave the audience the opportunity to receive the most up-to-date information related to M&A deals (M&A market and deals – results and trends for 2024; legal, regulatory, financial aspects related to M&A deals; and new challenges for foreign shareholders and management of foreign companies).

In December 2024, the Committee held an event on cross-border payments which could become a series of events as well as the topic is of great interest to the AEB member companies.

CHAIRPERSON

Andrey Zharskiy, Partner, ALRUD Law Firm

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Date

Crisis Update: Sanctions and Countermeasures. Disputes Involving Foreign Persons in Russian Courts: Current Challenges and Remedies <i>(online)</i>	16.02.2024
Crisis Update: Sanctions and Countermeasures. Update on the Sanctions Landscape <i>(online)</i>	27.03.2024
Conference "The Russian M&A Market in 2024: Is the Boom Over?" <i>(hybrid)</i>	23.05.2024
12th Sanctions Package: Possible Consequences for Foreigners Working in Russia <i>(online) (jointly with the Labour Law Sub-Committee of the HR Committee and Migration Committee)</i>	30.05.2024
AEB Annual Survey Results Briefing: Strategies and Prospects for European Companies in Russia <i>(online)</i>	14.06.2024
AEB Regulatory Update. Recent Developments in Counter-Sanctions Regulation and Practice <i>(online)</i>	25.06.2024

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Date	
02.07.2024	AEB Sanctions Update. 14 th EU Package and Recent US Restrictions. What Business Needs to Know (<i>online</i>)
03.10.2024	AEB Sanctions Update. Overview of Recent EU and US Restrictions. What Business Needs to Know (<i>online</i>)
01.11.2024	AEB Regulatory Update. Recent Developments in Counter-Sanctions Regulation and Practice (<i>online</i>)
10.12.2024	Cross-Border Payments: Challenges, Trends and Solutions (<i>offline</i>)
26.12.2024	AEB Sanctions Update. Overview of Recent EU and US Restrictions. What Business Needs to Know (<i>online</i>)

AEB external events

Date	
30.09-01.10.2024	Eurasian Economic Forum 2024
18.10.2024	Moscow Financial Forum 2024

The Committee is an organizer of the annual business climate survey conducted by AEB in cooperation with GfK-Rus. On June 14, 2024 the results of the survey "Strategies and Prospects of European Companies in Russia" were presented. The presentation was followed by expert discussion of the survey results with Alexey Dorofeev, GfK Rus, Chris Weafer, Macro-Advisory, and Pavel Chinsky, CEO, CCI France Russie.

In 2024, the AEB Government Sub-Commission Task Force, a temporary structure formed in 2023 within the AEB Finance & Investments Committee, continued to function – to address issues related to the Government Sub-Commission, approval procedures and practices for dividend payments and transactions. The Task Force united members from various AEB Committees, held three meetings and drafted two letters re limits for tax-free forgiveness and dividend payments in connection to suspension of certain provisions of DTAs.

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

2

Government Sub-
Commission Task Force
meetings

3

NUMBER
OF LOBBYING
LETTERS

2

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Accor Groupe; ADVANT Beiten; ALRUD Law Firm; American Express Bank; Arval; Auto Partners; B1; Bacardi Russia; Beiersdorf; Bellerage; BNP Paribas Bank; Bonduelle-Kuban; BRAND & PARTNERS; CAMPARI RUS; Caterpillar Eurasia; Ceramic Solutions Rus; Citibank; Colgate-Palmolive; Daccord; Egis Pharmaceuticals; EkoNiva-Technika Holding; eni s.p.a.; EPAM Law Offices; Expo Mobility; FCM Leasing; GE Healthcare; GERSA; GROUPE SEB-VOSTOK; Haleon Rus; Heel Rus; HeidelbergCement Rus; HEINEKEN BREWERIES; IBFS united GmbH; ING Wholesale Banking in Russia; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; Kappa RUS; Kept; Kesarev; Knauf Group CIS; KraftHeinz Vostok Ltd; KT&G Global Rus; Lemana PRO; Lidings; Marillion; Mars; MB RUS; Mega Service; MOST SERVICE, member of Bruck Consult; Nextons; Nikon Russia; Novo Nordisk; OTP Bank; Pension solutions NPF; Pepeliaev Group; Perfetti Van Melle Co., Ltd; Peugeot Citroën Rus (Groupe PSA); Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; PPG Tikkurila; Protecta Trade Insurance; Raiffeisenbank; Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare; Rosbank; Sanofi Russia; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SERVIER; Sternhoff Audit; Taglex; Tenacta; Thuricum Insurance Company; VEGAS LEX; Vendor Green Rus; VISA; Volvo Cars

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

GREEN INITIATIVE

COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

Being a project aimed at protecting the interests of European business, promoting the best international practices and technologies, and developing cooperation with Russian stakeholders and partners in climate policy, energy transition, impact investments and numerous other sustainability matters, the AEB Green Initiative has been engaged in a variety of events aimed at sharing knowledge and securing AEB seat as one of the key go-to institutions when it comes to renewables, hydrogen, electric vehicles and other innovative transport solutions, ESG legal framework and ESG implementation across various industries.

To name a few of AEB Green Initiative's numerous activities in 2024, it welcomed and organized the briefing by the newly appointed Special Envoy of the Russian President for Relations with International Organizations for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals Boris Titov. AEB members discussed with Boris Titov areas of cooperation in the context of sustainable development with international businesses operating in Russia and Russian businesses targeting the global market. The parties raised issues of possible potential in the joint implementation of major projects in energy, waste, social infrastructure, and governmental stimulus programs for sustainability.

Another hallmark event of the year the AEB Green Initiative managed to fulfill was the first-ever AEB round table titled "Russia on its Path Towards Sustainability: Looking for Synergies between International and Russian Businesses" at the UN Climate Change Conference COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Aside from that session, Tadzio Shilling (AEB CEO) and Roman Ishmukhametov (Green Initiative Chair) were actively involved as moderators and speakers of numerous other round tables in Russian pavilion at COP29.

Participation in a high-profile international event like COP29 helped AEB to promote its interests and to show that AEB remains open and committed to fostering discussions that facilitate synergies between national regulator and foreign businesses in pursuit of sustainability goals.

CHAIRPERSON

Roman Ishmukhametov, Senior Associate, Melling, Voitishkin & Partners

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

	Date
"ESG as part of the corporate brand" (jointly with the AEB PR & Communications Committee)	21.02.2024
AEB Round table "Electric Vehicles and Alternative Fuels"	23.04.2024
AEB Round table "ESG: Legal Framework and Business Opportunities"	17.06.2024
AEB Macro Update devoted to the topic "Towards Decarbonization of the Russian Fuel and Energy Sector"	25.06.2024
Briefing by Boris Titov – Special Envoy of the Russian President for relations with international organizations to achieve the sustainable development goals	26.09.2024
"A brief overview of areas of work, global and Russian ESG trends" (jointly with the Food Processing Committee)	02.10.2024

AEB external events

	Date
Skolkovo Management School – "COP 28 Outcomes"	24.01.2024
The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation – "Circular Economy as Effective Tool to Achieve Carbon Neutrality"	01.03.2024

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB external events

	Date
Joint event of the AEB Green Initiative, the AEB Safety, Health, Environment & Security Committee (SHES) and the AEB Energy Committee, SIBUR, Green Building Club (GBCG) and the ESG Business Club of the RANEP Faculty of Finance and Banking "Carbon management: deep dive"	08.10.2024
Strategy Forum	11.10.2024
Meeting with EU Ambassadors	23.10.2024
Southern Federal University – "Establishing Modern Legal Framework as a Tool to Implement Sustainability Concept"	25.10.2024
UN Global Compact & Climate Partnership of Russia – "Russian Business ahead of COP 29"	31.10.2024
COP 29 – round table "Russia on its Path Towards Sustainability: Looking for Synergies between International and Russian Businesses"	16.11.2024
"Smart City – Green City"	28.11.2024
Skolkovo Management School – "COP 29 Outcomes"	28.11.2024
UN Human Rights Commissioner – UN Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights	29.11.2024
Waste Utilizers Forum – ESG Day – Debates on Carbon Markets	02.12.2024

Roman Ishmukhametov (acting as AEB representative) participated as speaker and moderator in multiple other events organized in 2024 by major stakeholders in sustainability domain, such as UN Global Compact, Climate Partnership of Russia, Center for Sustainable Development of SKOLKOVO School of Management and many others.

The AEB Green Initiative has taken significant strides to address pressing sustainability affairs through its latest publication, the second edition of the sustainability journal titled "Sustainability: Area of Common Endeavor". This journal showcases a diverse array of articles that highlight the growing importance of sustainability across various industries.

The AEB Green Initiative also remains open and committed to fostering discussions that facilitate synergies between national regulators, international and Russian businesses in pursuit of sustainability goals.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Allnex Belgorod; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Auchan; B1; BASF; Bonduelle; Branch of OMV Russia Upstream GmbH (Austria); Brother; Buhler Group; Carnelutti Russia Law Firm; Cementum; Center-invest Bank; Chiesi Pharmaceuticals; Citibank; CLAAS; Commerzbank (Eurasija); DRT; Expo Mobility; Fererro; Haleon; Hotel Management Company (The Carlton); HTS Europe; ING Wholesale Banking in Russia; INVESTMENT COMPANY IC RUSS-INVEST; Italcantieri; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS B.V.; JETRO; Kept; Kesarev; Lamoda; LARTA GLASS; Lidings; Manpower; Mars; Mega Service; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; Nestle Rossiya; Nizhpharm; Novonordisk; Pension solutions, NPF; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; Ponimau; Raiffeisenbank; RN Bank; Rosbank; Saipem; Samsung; SEAMLESS LEGAL LIMITED (UAE); Semren & Mansson; SOGAZ Insurance Group; Specta; Thuricum; TIAR-Center; Tikkurila; Unilever; VEGAS LEX

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEECOMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

In accordance with HR Committee Rules the HR Committee consists of four active Sub-Committees:

- › AEB Assessment, Training & Development Sub-Committee;
- › AEB Compensation and Benefits Sub-Committee;
- › AEB Labour Law Sub-Committee;
- › AEB Recruitment & Relocation Sub-Committee.

There were two General Committee meetings which took place on 26.09.2024 and on 10.12.2024.

Each Sub-Committee organized two or more Sub-Committee meetings as well as two or more events. In total: there were 10 events and 13 Sub-Committees meetings organized by the HR Committee.

Among all the meetings and events held by the HR Committee, the following events should be mentioned separately:

- › Annual HR Conference titled "The future of human resources: beyond the breaking point" which was jointly organized by the AEB Compensation & Benefits Sub-Committee, AEB Recruitment & Relocation and Assessment, Training & Development Sub-Committees, AEB Labour Law Sub-Committee.
- › Annual joint cross-regional session organized by the AEB HR Committee, AEB Southern Regional Committee and AEB North-Western Regional Committee "HR Spotlight of the Russian regions".

CHAIRPERSON

Irina Aksenova, Deputy General Manager, Key Accounts, Coleman Group

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

HR Conference: "The future of human resources: beyond the breaking point", organized by the AEB Assessment, Training & Development, Recruitment & Development, Compensation & Benefits and Labour Law Sub-Committees

Date

14.03.2024

Webinar organized jointly by the Labour Law Sub-Committee and Finance & Investments and Migration Committees: "12th package of sanctions. Implications for EU citizens working in Russia"

30.05.2024

Webinar "Eternal" legal problems of labor relations"

11.06.2024

Webinar "Selected labor relations issues in the current challenging environment"

30.09.2024

Joint cross-regional session organized by the AEB HR Committee, AEB Southern Regional Committee and AEB North-Western Regional Committee "HR Spotlight of the Russian regions"

17.10.2024

Open event "Employees retention tools in the context of staff shortage"

21.10.2024

Webinar "Important issues of labor relations in the current challenging environment"

25.10.2024

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Open event "Personal data 2024: in search of balance" jointly organized by the AEB IT & Telecom Committee, AEB Compliance & Ethics Committee, and by the AEB Labor Law Sub-Committee

Date

07.11.2024

Open event "Employees Engagement – Tools of Engagement and Dialogue Building in Today's World"

12.11.2024

Webinar jointly organized by the Assessment, Training & Development Sub-Committee and Labour-Law Sub-Committee "Traditions and new technologies in personnel training"

26.11.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

13

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Accor Groupe; Advant Beiten; Air France; Alrud Law Firm; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Auchan Russia; Avito; B1; Bayer; BDR Thermea Rus; Bosch Group; Bonduelle-Kuban; Brother; Cargill; Caterpillar Eurasia; Center for Creative Leadership; Ceramic Solutions Rus; Chevron Neftegaz Inc. Moscow Branch; Coleman Group; Credit Agricole CIB; Deutsche Bank Ltd.; DHL Express; Daccord; Expo Mobility; GARDIA Insurance Company; Gersa; Heineken Breweries; Honda Motor RUS; Hyundai Motor CIS; ING Wholesale Banking in Russia; Intermark Relocation; ITMS Russia; Jacobs Douwe Egberts; JTI Russia; Kept; Kappa RUS; KT&G Global Rus; Lab Industries; Lemana PRO; Marillion; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; Metro Cash&Carry; MMC Rus; Mitsubishi Electric (Russia); M.Video; Navien RUS; Orange Business Services; Oriflame; Peugeot Citroën Rus (Groupe PSA); Pepeliaev Group; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; POKBYJ; Saipem; Sapozhnikov & Partners; Schneider Group; Servier; The International School of Moscow; TotalEnergies EP Russie, Representative office in Moscow; Vendor Green Rus; Visa

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Anton Bankovskiy

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Pavel Sadovsky, Partner, EPAM Law Offices

Irina Stepanova, Counsel, Nextons

Yuri Yakhin, Counsel, Melling, Voitishkin & Partners

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

On May 29, 2024 the Committee held its annual conference "Intellectual property rights: recent trends, court practices, issues and solutions" at the AEB Conference Center.

The conference was dedicated to the key issues in the sphere of intellectual property in Russia and the EAEU, including the overview of legislation improvements, established practices in applying regulatory acts, court practices and much more detailed information and analysis provided by high profile speakers from the Eurasian Economic Union, IPR Court, EAPO, Rospatent and FAS and the experts from the AEB member companies.

The Committee prepared one of the “Business Quarterly” magazines which covered IPR issues.

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

4

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB event

Date

AEB IPR Annual Conference
“Intellectual Property: Development
Trends, Judicial Practice, Problems
and Solutions”

29.05.2024

Meeting of AEB representatives with
Rospatent (jointly with the Health
and Pharmaceuticals Committee)

17.12.2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; AGR; AliExpress Россия; ALRUD Law Firm; ALUMNI Partners; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; B1; BASF; BAYER; Beiersdorf; BMW Russland Trading; Credit Agricole CIB; Delonghi; Denuo; EPAM Law Offices; HeidelbergCement Rus; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; Kesarev; Kia Russia & CIS; Lemana PRO; M.Video; Marillion; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; Merck; METRO Cash&Carry; Mondelez; Nizhpharm; Novartis Group Russia; Nextons; Nextons St. Petersburg; Pepeliaev Group; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); Sanofi Russia; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; Shevyrev and partners; Sapozhnikov & Partners; Teva; Trading House; Systeme Electric; Syngenta; VEGAS LEX; Vlasta-Consulting

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

LEGAL COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

The main topics of the Committee agenda in 2024 were:

- › legal support of IT localization projects;
- › update re economic sanctions in the Russian judicial practice;
- › risks of management of foreign companies leaving the Russian market;
- › generative AI: legal checklist;
- › risks for foreign companies and their subsidiaries in the Russian Federation: bankruptcy, liability for actions of the parent company;
- › FAS Expert Council on unfair competition meeting results (green washing; marketplaces);
- › IP protection on the marketplaces.

CHAIRPERSON

Ekaterina Erova, Senior Associate, Melling, Voitishkin & Partners

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Denis Lim, Partner, Lex Borealis

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Date

Round table “ESG: Legal Framework
and Business Opportunities” jointly
organized with the AEB Green
Initiative Committee

17.06.2024

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Joint event "Artificial Intelligence in Action: How It Works and What Opportunities It Opens" organized with the AEB IT & Telecom Committee, Compliance and Ethics Committee, PR & Communications Committee

Date

02.10.2024

Annual briefing by Maxim Shaskolskiy, Head of the Federal Antimonopoly Service

30.10.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

5

On June 17, 2024 the AEB Legal Committee together with the AEB Green Initiative held a round table "ESG in Russia: legal framework and business opportunities". The participants discussed such topics as ESG principles, the legal framework for ESG in Russia, structuring investment projects with positive environmental and social effects, etc.

On October 2, 2024 the AEB Legal Committee jointly with the AEB IT & Telecommunications Committee, the Compliance and Ethics Committee, and the PR & Communications Committee organized an open event "Artificial intelligence in action: how it works and what opportunities it offers". The speakers provided an overview of current AI legislation in Russia and the EU, discussed the risks associated with AI, and shared the opportunities that AI offers in various applications.

On October 30, 2024 the Committee organized an annual briefing with Maxim Shaskolskiy, Head of the Federal Antimonopoly Service. The briefing covered such topics as legal regulation, government procurement, trade regulation, control of financial markets, issues of compulsory licensing and parallel imports, unfair competition and advertising, and international cooperation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; AGR; Akzo Nobel Coatings; AliExpress Россия; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Auchan Russia; B1; Barry Callebaut; BASF; BMW Russland Trading; CAMPARI RUS; Caterpillar Eurasia; Clemessy Rus; Daccord; Denuo; EPAM Law Offices; Expo Mobility; Ferrero Russia; GROUPE SEB-VOSTOK; HeidelbergCement Rus; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; Khvoya Bank; New Fashion; JURALINK; Karl Storz; Kept; Kia Russia & CIS; Komatsu CIS; LAB Industries; Law Company TAXOLOGY; Lemana PRO; Lidings; M.Video; Marillion; Merck; METRO Cash&Carry; Melling, Voitishkin and Partners; MOL-Russ; Mondelez; Multon Partners; Nestle Rossiya; Nikon Russia; Nextons; Orange Business Services; Pension solutions NPF; Pepeliaev Group; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Procter & Gamble; RB Life Insurance; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); SANOFI Russia; Samsung Electronics; SCHNEIDER GROUP; Seldico; SERVIER; Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Shevyrev and partners; Syngenta; T-Insurance; Tenacta; Teva; Thuricum Insurance Company; VEGAS LEX; VISA; Volvo Cars

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

MIGRATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

The Committee kept in focus the following issues:

- › maintaining the current preferences for HQS;
- › attraction of qualified foreign workers (blue collars);
- › quotas and proof of Russian language knowledge by foreign citizens;
- › a new list of non-quota occupations;
- › an investors visa and criteria of its receipt;
- › business trips of foreign citizens working in the Russian Federation on the basis of a patent.

The Committee drafted letters to:

- › MVD on 30 days for collection of work permit and documents for minors proving Russian citizenship;
- › Ministry of Economic Development on meeting request and proposals on Migration Concept Road plan;
- › Moscow City Government on the experiment on electronic cards for foreigners;
- › Ministry of Economic Development on the AEB position on the new Migration concept for FIAC meeting;
- › Government of Russia on New Migration Concept and Government Decree #30-r on its implementation;
- › RSPP on AEB proposals on HQS & new Migration Concept;
- › RSPP on AEB proposals on a draft project "Work in Russia";
- › Ministry of Economic Development on AEB proposals on relocation of businesses and foreign citizens;
- › Federal Council on changes to the Administrative Code and proposals on migrant workers attraction;
- › MMC Sakharovo on accompanying HQS by interpreters, lawyers and a person with a power of attorney from a company;
- › Expert Council of the Government of Russia on AEB proposals on blue collars recruitment (quotas & language exams);
- › Ministry of Economic Development on AEB proposals on duty travel and development of the quotation procedure.

CHAIRPERSON

Ludmila Shiryayeva, Government Relations Director, Tax, Law and Business Support, B1 Group

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Alexey Filipenkov, Partner, Visa Delight
Andrey Slepov, Partner, ADVANT Beiten
Kazbek Sasiyev, Associate, Nextons

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB event	Date
AEB Migration Conference	12.12.2024
AEB external events	Date
Meeting with MVD (A. Gorovoy, V. Kazakova) on visas for installation work and attraction of foreign workers (patent/quotas)	14.03.2024
RTK Meeting re Migration concept, HQS status, installation work visas and patent workers	19.03.2024
Meeting with T. Ilyshnikova, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, re Migration concept and HQS status	01.04.2024
Round table on Administrative Offences in the migration area at the Federation Council	06.06.2024
The Government of Russia Expert Council's Meeting on labor migration and demographic situation	02.08.2024
RTK meeting on employment issues in Russia, qualified personnel and the national educational project	12.09.2024

Meeting with M. Moskvina, RSPP, on migration issues	07.10.2024
Meeting with T. Ilyshnikova, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, S. Sorokin, Director of Department for the Development of the Social Sphere and the Sector of Non-Profit Organizations, on migration issues	08.10.2024
Meeting with D. Platygin, Deputy Minister of Labor, on secondment law	14.10.2024
RTK meeting on a draft law on a register of employers and on mentorship	26.11.2024

On December 12, 2024 the Committee organized a successful Migration Conference. The MVD and Ministry of Economic Development representatives took part in the event. Armen Oganessian, Deputy Head of General Directorate for Migration Issues of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, Maria Gromova, Deputy Director of the Department for Development of the Social Sphere and Non-Profit Organizations Sector, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, representatives of MVD responded to the questions of AEB member companies.

The AEB Migration Committee continues to monitor changes in migration legislation and practice and inform members of changes in a timely manner.

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

11

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; AGR; Alfa Laval Potok; ALRUD Law Firm; B1; Bellerage; Buhler Service; Business Solutions and Technologies; Calzedonia; CAMPARI RUS; Carnelutti Russia Law Firm; Caterpillar Eurasia; Center for Creative Leadership; Chevron Neftegaz Inc. Moscow Branch; Credit Agricole CIB; Denuo; Deutsche Bank Ltd.; GE Healthcare; Honda Motor RUS; Intermark Relocation; International Tobacco Group; ITMS Russia; JTI Russia; Kept; Kesarev; KT&G Global Rus; LAB Industries; Lemana PRO; Lidings Law Offices; Marillion; Mega Service; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; Metropol Hotel Moscow ("MC "Okhotny Ryad"); MOST SERVICE, member of Bruck Consult; Multon Partners; Nextons; NGRS; P.R. Rouss (Pernod Ricard Rouss); Pepeliaev Group; Perfetti Van Melle Co., Ltd; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; quality partners; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare; Roche Diagnostics Rus; Rosbank; SAIPEM SPA BRANCH IN MOSCOW; Samsung Electronics; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; Seldico; SERVIER; Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Technology Company Schlumberger; TORG; TotalEnergies EP Russie, Representative office in Moscow; UniCredit Bank; Visa Delight; VISA

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

PRODUCT CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Alexey Soldatov, Technical Regulation Manager, BOSCH Group

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Dmitry Miklin, Director for Government Relations, Herbalife
Tatiana Shcherba, Senior Manager, Technical Regulation and External Affairs Division, Procter & Gamble

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the Committee was engaged in such issues as:

- › status of a foreign manufacturer representative and its registration;
- › a draft Law "On Amendments to the Federal Law 'On Standardization in the Russian Federation'";

- › reduction in the validity of certificates of state registration and declarations of conformity to Technical Regulation of the Customs Union 007/2011 "On the safety of products intended for children and adolescents" when finalizing the project under consideration;
- › evolution of technical regulations TR CU 004/2011 and TR CU 020/2011 in the field of the recognition of international product testing results;
- › excessive burden of the product conformity assessment procedure in online retail.

Committee members will continue to collect major problems identified in the field of technical regulation and standardization, especially in the frame of the EAEU.

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB event

"Technical Regulation and Conformity Assessment in the Eurasian Economic Union"

Date

20.11.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

6

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

12

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Avon Beauty Products Company; BASF; Bonduelle-Kuban; Brother; BOSCH Group; CAMPARI RUS; Caterpillar Eurasia; Cementum; Daccord; Denuo; Dow Europe GmbH Representation office; Ferrero Russia; GROUPE SEB-VOSTOK; Hempel; Hitachi Construction Machinery Eurasia Limited Liability Company; International Tobacco Group; ITMS Russia; Kaercher; Komatsu CIS; LAB Industries; Law Company TAXOLOGY; L'Oreal; Merck; Mitsubishi Electric (Russia); Nestle Rossiya; New Fashion; Oriflame; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; Procter & Gamble; Reckitt Benckiser; ПОКВУЛ; Saint-Gobain; Samsung Electronics; Systeme Electric; SCHNEIDER GROUP; Tikkurila; VEGAS LEX Advocate Bureau; Volvo Cars; Yamaha Motor CIS; Yamaha Music

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

During 2024 the Committee held 7 meetings: 4 Committee meetings and 3 open events. The Committee organized a number of meetings to discuss planned activities as well as the most pressing and popular topics in the sector, such as:

- › Internet advertising labeling;
- › Register of bloggers (Amendments to 303-FZ);
- › interaction with the media;
- › ESG;
- › internal communications.

CHAIRPERSON

Marina Tatarskaya, IACC Manager, CIS Region, Ferrero

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB event

"ESG as part of the corporate brand"

Date

21.02.2024

"Internal communications in the corporate communications system"

30.05.2024

"Artificial intelligence in action: how it works and what opportunities it offers"

02.10.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

4

The Committee Chair and its members actively participate in AEB events (GR Academy, open events, briefings) and meetings including interactions with other Committees. In addition, the Committee had a number of its own public events in 2024.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Accor Groupe; ADVANT Beiten; AGR; ALRUD Law Firm; Ararat Park Hotel Moscow; Arval; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Avon Beauty Products Company; B1; BAYER; Benteler Automotive; BNP Paribas Bank; Boehringer Ingelheim; Bonduelle-Kuban; BOSCH Group; Canelutti Russia Law Firm; Caterpillar Eurasia; Cementum; Chevron Neftegaz Inc. Moscow Branch; COMMERZBANK (EURASIJA); Daccord; DHL Express; Dow Europe GmbH Representation office; EPAM Law Offices; Ferrero Russia; GAZ Group; Gefera Media; GERSA; H&N; Haval Motor Rus; Hotel Baltschug Kempinski Moscow; Hyundai Motor CIS; ING Wholesale Banking in Russia; Intermark Relocation; ITMS Russia; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; Kesarev; LOTTE RUS; Macro - Advisory Ltd.; Manpower; Marillion; maslov:agency; Melling; Voitishkin & Partners; Merck; Metropol Hotel Moscow (LLC "MC "Okhotny Ryad"); Mitsubishi Electric (Russia); Morgan Lewis; MOST SERVICE, member of Bruck Consult; Multon Partners; NAVIEN RUS; Nextons; Novo Nordisk; Oriflame; Pepeliaev Group; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; PPG Tikkurila Россия; Procter & Gamble; Raiffeisenbank; POKBYJ; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; SERVIER; Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Subaru Motor; Suzuki Motor Rus; Syngenta; Tablogix; VEGAS LEX; Zetta Life

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Anton Alekseev, Counsel, EPAM Law Offices

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB event

Joint event of IPC and REC "Real estate insurance"

Date

13.02.2024

Round Table "Unauthorized Construction: Criteria, Legalization, and Judicial Practice"

14.05.2024

Webinar "Legal Update in Real Estate"

24.07.2024

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

The Committee was founded in 2003 and brings together real estate professionals from a variety of areas including project and facilities managers, consultants, engineering and design companies, financiers, and other service providers.

The Committee has always had four primary objectives around which its activities are structured: to facilitate the information exchange regarding real estate, construction and development issues in Russia; to monitor and analyze legal requirements in real estate (current, new, draft); to present business expertise in the field and to be a platform for industrial discussions between AEB and relevant governmental bodies; to increase the attractiveness of Russian real estate market for foreign investors.

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

3

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; ALRUD Law Firm; ALUMNI Partners; B1; Bank Credit Suisse (Moscow); Benteler Automotive; Cernelutti Russia Law Firm; Caterpillar Eurasia; Coleman Group; Commonwealth Partnership (CMWP); Denuo; EPAM Law Offices; Intermark Relocation; Italcantieri; TAXOLOGY; Lemana PRO; Melling; Voitishkin & Partners; New Fashion; Nextons; Pavia e Ansaldo; Pepeliaev Group; Perfetti Van Melle Co.; Roy Piek; Saint-Gobain; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; Siemens Healthcare; Special economic zone "STUPINO QUADRAT"; Tablogix; TAXOLOGY; Thuricum Insurance Company; TIAR-Center; Vlasta-Consulting

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES


SAFETY, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

Committee members focus on creating a favorable psychological climate in companies and maintaining the mental health of employees, as well as individual professional development programs. Trends regarding inclusive hiring and adaptation of employees, and corporate social responsibility projects are becoming more and more widespread. Practical first aid skills are of crucial importance for life and health of personnel in case of emergency situations at production facilities. Particular attention is paid to the analysis and management of occupational safety risks when working at customer sites, as well as the application of an integrated approach to industrial safety at enterprises.

The mission of the Committee is to follow a set of topics in compliance with the principles of sustainable development and safety, to present the best practices and exchange of experience between the leading experts and European companies operating in Russia, to inform AEB member companies about the expected changes in legislation, new initiatives and the latest practices.

In 2024 the Committee membership was updated, and a steering group was formed for prompt discussion of issues. The Committee organized two major open events, issued several letters, as well as regularly monitored ongoing regulatory initiatives.

The Committee issued the "Business Quarterly" magazine revealing to readers some of the issues on its agenda connected with employees' psychology features and demands that an employer should take into account when organizing safe working conditions, a comfortable environment, effective EHS trainings, etc.

CHAIRPERSON

Tatyana Borisova, Eastern Cluster HSE Head, Novartis Group Russia

ORGANIZED EVENTS**AEB events**

Webinar "Occupational Health and Safety Regulations in Popular Business Expansion Sites"

Date

23.05.2024

Joint event with GI on Carbon Management

08.10.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

3

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

5

In addition to the effective continuation of activities in the current areas, the Committee's plans for 2025 include: strengthening work in the area of industrial security; special discussion of the first aid issues, regulation of the provision of personal protective equipment, features of inclusive practices at work; as well as organizing a regular exchange of best practices on the platform of Committee meetings.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; AGR; ALRUD Law Firm; ALUMNI Partners; Avon Beauty Products Company; B1; BASF; Bellerage; Benteler Automotive; Bonduelle-Kuban; Brother; Buhler Service; Cargill; Caterpillar Eurasia; Cementum; Chiesi Pharmaceuticals; Coleman Group; Deutsche Bank; DHL Express; Dow Europe GmbH; eni s.p.a.; EPAM Law Offices; Ferrero Russia; GE Healthcare; GERSA; H&N; Haeon Rus; HeidelbergCement Rus; HEINEKEN BREWERIES; Ikon Tyres; ITMS Russia; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; Kappa RUS; Karl Storz; Kept; Kesarev; Komatsu CIS; Lamoda; LARTA GLASS; Lemana PRO; Lidings Law Offices; Manpower; Marillion; Mars; MB RUS; METRO Cash&Carry; Multon Partners; Nestle Rossiya; Nikon Russia; Novartis Group Russia; Novo Nordisk; Orange Business Services; P.R. Rouss (Pernod Ricard Rouss); Pepeliaev Group; PepsiCo; Perfetti Van Melle Co.; PPG Tikkurila; Risk Advisory Group; Roche Diagnostics Rus; Saint-Gobain; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; SERVIER; Siemens Healthcare; Syngenta; Systeme Electric; TIAR-Center; TORG; TotalEnergies EP Russie

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

SMALL & MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Andreas Bitzi, CEO, Quality partners

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Oksana Bogdanova, Counsel, Law Company TAXOLOGY

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

1

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the Committee continued to prepare the SME Digest on issues related to small and medium businesses, as well as focused on the discussion of negative consequences for SMEs under MinFin Order No. 86n which extended the list of offshore zones (no benefits of reduced insurance premiums, moratoria on planned inspections, advantages in government procurement, other support measures – for SMEs from the blacklisted countries). In particular, the Committee was in contact with the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce in order to synergize efforts on this issue.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABU accounting services; ADVANT Beiten; Air France; Arval; Auto Partners; B1; Banca Intesa; Bauke van der Meer Tax and Legal Services (CIS) B.V.; Bellerage; Benteler Automotive; Brother; Carnelutti Russia Law Firm; Center-invest Bank; Ceramic Solutions Rus; DHL Express; DISPAK; EKE-Engineering; Gefera Media; HERBALIFE NUTRITION; Intermark Relocation; Italcantieri; JTI Russia; JURALINK; Kesarev; Law Company TAXOLOGY; LIEBHERR-RUSSLAND; Macro - Advisory Ltd.; Marillion; MB RUS; Metalock Engineering Rus; Moskva - Krasnye Holmy; MOST SERVICE, member of Bruck Consult; Nextons; Oriflame; Pavia e Ansaldo; Pepeliaev Group; Perfetti Van Melle Co., Ltd; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Port Hamburg Marketing; Protecta Trade Insurance; Quality partners; Raiffeisenbank; SAF-Holland Rus; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; Tablogix Holdings Ltd; Taglex; The International School of Moscow; Vlasta-Consulting; Welcome Abroad Relocations; Zentis Russland; Zetta Life

CROSS-SECTORAL COMMITTEES

TAXATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

The Committee continued to work through general Committee activities and through its substructures – Working Groups (WG), namely:

- › WG on digitalization,
- › WG on domestic operations,
- › WG on international operations,
- › WG on tax administration and control, and
- › WG on tax monitoring.

In 2024 the Committee had:

- › 10 Committee meetings (including 8 regular Committee meetings and 2 Taxation Committees' informal meetings jointly with the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce, CCIFR, and AmCham);
- › 28 Working Groups' meetings;
- › 5 open events on topics such as personal income tax for foreigners working in Russia and Russian citizens working abroad, tax monitoring, trends in the development of tax legislation, cross-border transactions and transfer pricing, development of court practice, corporate restructuring, Pillar 2 issues;
- › 21 lobbying letters.

The Committee had the following GR touch points:

- › a meeting with the Inter-Regional Inspectorate for Largest Taxpayers #1 at the Federal Tax Service of Russia;
- › participation of the AEB CEO in the meeting of Expert Council of the State Duma Committee on Budget and Taxes and in parliamentary hearings on the issue of tax system fine-tuning;
- › annual event the Inter-Regional Inspectorate for Largest Taxpayers #1 at the Federal Tax Service of Russia with support of AEB and the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce re tax monitoring;
- › participation of the AEB CEO in St. Petersburg Economic Forum 2024 at the session "Improving the Tax System: Fairness, Balance, Stability";
- › a meeting with Leonid Shneidman, Director of the Department for Regulation of Accounting, Financial Reporting and Auditing of the Ministry of Finance, re the Federal Accounting Standard FSBU 27/2021 "Documents and Document Flow in Accounting" (localization of accounting databases);

CHAIRPERSON

Nina Goulis, Partner, Kept

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Ksenia Litvinova, Partner, Pepeliaev Group

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

	Date
Webinar "Update on Personal Income Tax for Foreign Persons Working in Russia and Russian Citizens Working Abroad" (<i>online</i>)	04.04.2024

Round table "Tax monitoring. Advantages, development prospects, disadvantages" (<i>hybrid</i>) (<i>jointly with the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce</i>)	06.06.2024
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Summer Conference "Modernization of the Russian Tax System: Key Points for Business" (<i>offline</i>)	19.07.2024
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Webinar "Pillar 2: Legislative Update and Applicability in Russia" (<i>online</i>)	01.11.2024
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Winter Conference "Tax Results of the Year. Dialogues on What Matters" (<i>offline</i>)	03.12.2024
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AEB external events

	Date
St. Petersburg Economic Forum 2024 (Session "Improving the Tax System: Fairness, Balance, Stability")	06.06.2024

Moscow Financial Forum 2024	18.10.2024
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- › participation of the AEB CEO in the meeting of the State Duma Committee on Budget and Taxes on the issue of tax system fine-tuning;
- › participation of Committee members in Moscow Financial Forum 2024;
- › a meeting with Sergey Kuchushev, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media.

In addition, on December 17, 2024 the Federal Tax Service held a meeting of its Advisory Council on Taxation of Foreign Investors and Commercial Organizations with Foreign Investment (chaired by Daniil Egorov, Head of the Federal Tax Service, and moderated by Julia Shepeleva, Deputy Head of the Federal Tax Service), to discuss issues related to operation of interactive services, transfer pricing, taxation of personal income, insurance premiums, currency regulation and counter-sanction restrictions, as well as country reports. The event was attended by representatives of AEB, the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia, the Franco-Russian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

In 2024, the Committee cooperated with the following major chambers and associations: RSPP, the Russian-German Chamber of Commerce, CCIFR, AmCham, Confindustria, and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and held a number of joint activities.

The Committee also cooperated with several AEB Committees/ structures: Customs and Transport Committee, Seed Committee, Health & Pharmaceuticals Committee (including Animal Health Working Group and Medical Devices Working Group), IT & Telecom Committee, Migration Committee, HR Committee, Insurance & Pensions Committee, Food Processing Committee, Machine Building & Engineering Committee, and others.

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

10

WG meetings

28

NUMBER
OF LOBBYING
LETTERS

21

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ABU accounting services; ADVANT Beiten; AGR; Akzo Nobel Coatings; AliExpress Россия; ALRUD Law Firm; ALUMNI Partners; Aristo Pharma; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Astros Logistics; Auchan Russia; Auto Partners; B1; Bacardi Russia; BASF; BAYER; Beiersdorf; Bellerage; BMW Russland Trading; BNP Paribas Bank; Boehringer Ingelheim; BRAND & PARTNERS; Business Solutions and Technologies; CAMPARI RUS; Cargill; Carl Zeiss; Carnelutti Russia Law Firm; Cementum; Ceramic Solutions Rus; Citibank; CLAAS; Clemessy Rus; Colgate-Palmolive; COMMERZBANK (EURASIJA); Credit Agricole CIB; Delonghi; Denuo; Deutsche Bank Ltd.; DHL Express; Egis Pharmaceuticals PLC (Hungary); EkoNiva-Technika Holding (part of EkoNiva group); eni s.p.a.; EPAM Law Offices; Estee Lauder Companies; Faurecia Automotive Development; FCM Leasing; Ferrero Russia; GE Healthcare; Gorodissky & Partners; GROUPE SEB-VOSTOK; H&N; Haval Motor Rus; Heel Rus; HeidelbergCement Rus; Honda Motor RUS; IBFS united GmbH; IC MANAGEMENT; Ikon Tyres, Ltd; Ipsen; ITMS Russia; Iveco Russia; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; JTI Russia; JURALINK; Kappa RUS; Karl Storz; Kept; Knauf Group CIS; KraftHeinz Vostok Ltd; LARTA GLASS; Lidings Law Offices; L'Oreal; Loyens & Loeff N.V.; M.Video; Macro - Advisory Ltd.; Marillion; Mars; MB RUS; MEF LEGAL; Mega Service; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; Merck; METRO Cash&Carry; MMC Rus; MOL-Russ; Mondelez; Multon Partners; Nestle Rossiya; Nextons; Nextons St. Petersburg; Nizhpharm; Olson Consulting; Oriflame; OTP Bank; Pepeliaev Group; PepsiCo; Perfetti Van Melle Co., Ltd; Peugeot Citroën Rus (Groupe PSA); Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; Pirelli Tyre Russia; PPG Tikkurila Россия; Procter & Gamble; Raiffeisenbank; RB Life Insurance; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare; ПОКВУЛ; RP Canon Medical Systems; SAIPEM SPA BRANCH IN MOSCOW; Sanofi Russia; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; Seldico; SERVIER; Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Sterngoff Audit; Systeme Electric; Taglex; Technology Company Schlumberger; Teva; Thuricum Insurance Company; TIAR-Center; Top Lubricants; TORG; TotalEnergies EP Russie, Representative office in Moscow; VEGAS LEX; Yamaha Motor CIS; Zalesov, Timofeev, Gusev and Partners, Advocate collegium of the city of Moscow; Zentis Russland

WORKING GROUPS

NON-FOOD FMCG WORKING GROUP

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 WG members took active part in the discussions and came up with various lobbying initiatives concerning both the industrial and cross-sectoral issues, including customs rates, the "Russian shelf" proposal and labelling.

The WG initiated cross-industrial AEB discussion on the need to regulate marketplaces and on 28 March 2024 co-organized an open event "Trademark holders rights protection in e-commerce: current practice and regulatory perspectives" attended by the State Duma Deputy Irina Philatova and Director of Department of Internal Trade Development at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Nikita Kuznetsov.

Following the intra-committee consensus reached at the event, the WG coordinated development of a joint AEB position regarding the regulation of marketplaces that was presented during the meetings and sent to the relevant government and State Duma stakeholders. The position was also used as a basis for AEB comments to the draft Law on Platform Economy prepared and brought to the public discussion by the Ministry of Economic Development.

CHAIRPERSON

Nikita Nizkous, Corporate Affairs Director, L'Oreal

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Avon; Colgate Palmolive; Haleon; Herbalife; LAB Industries; L'Oreal; Oriflame; Procter & Gamble; Reckitt Benckiser; Unilever; Yves Rocher Vostok

NUMBER OF
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

9

WORKING GROUPS

TOBACCO PRODUCTS WORKING GROUP

CHAIRPERSON

Sergey Slipchenko, Vice-President for Corporate Affairs,
Philip Morris Sales & Marketing

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

International Tobacco Group; ITMS Russia; JTI Russia;
KT&G; Philip Morris Sales & Marketing

NUMBER OF
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

4

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024, the WG activities were focused on aligning and presenting to relevant stakeholders the WG's position and suggestions on issues of importance for the industry. WG members monitored and took an active part in the development of all main Russian government and the EAEU legislative initiatives. Issues which were on the WG agenda included among others excise tax and NCP minimum price formula, development of the EAEU technical regulation on nicotine-containing products and market research on illicit trade of tobacco products. During the reporting period, WG membership increased with the addition of a new member, KT&G.

WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL HEALTH

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB event

"Foreign Veterinary Medicinal Product
Availability for Food Security in the
Eurasian Economic Union"

Date

14.02.2024

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the Working group held 3 meetings and 1 event dedicated to the foreign veterinary medicinal product availability for food security in the Eurasian Economic Union.

In 2024 the WG paid a particular attention to the following topics:

- › quality control of veterinary drugs/delivery of quality control reagents for veterinary drug quality control;
- › development of EAEU Regulation for VMPs; implementation of the Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission of 21.01.2022 No. 1 (ed. from 27.09.2023) "On the Rules regulating the handling of veterinary drugs in the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union";
- › certification issues of products based on inspections of foreign enterprises;
- › current supply issues of feed producers;
- › a registration dossiers update process.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

AVPHARM; Boehringer Ingelheim; Hill's Pet Nutrition; Mars; Nestle Rossiya

NUMBER OF
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

3

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

1

WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP ON LABELLING AND TRACK & TRACE SYSTEM

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, 2024

The Working Group on Labelling and Track & Trace System held four meetings in 2024 and prepared a list of questions to be discussed with the Ministry of Industry and Trade in 2024-2025.

CHAIRPERSON

Vera Volkova, Director of the Practice of Digital Technologies and Business Transformation, B1

NUMBER OF
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

4

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

7

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

AGR; AliExpress Россия; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; Auchan Russia; Bacardi Russia; B1; Calzedonia; CLAAS; DHL Express; EPAM Law Offices; H&N; Haleon Rus; HERBALIFE NUTRITION; Honda Motor RUS; International Tobacco Group; JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; JTI Russia; Karl Storz; KT&G Global Rus; Lemana PRO; Mazda Motor Rus; MB RUS; METRO Cash&Carry; Merck; Mondelez; MOST SERVICE; Nestle Rossiya; New Fashion; Nikon Russia; Oriflame; Philips; Pirelli Tyre Russia; Procter & Gamble; quality partners; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare; RP Canon Medical Systems; ROCA GROUP; Samsung Electronics; SEAMLESS Legal; Taglex; TIAR-Center; Trading House; Vlasta-Consulting; Yamaha Motor CIS

WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP ON MEDICAL DEVICES

CHAIRPERSON

Galina Rezvan, Government Affairs Director, GE Healthcare

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Meeting with Mikhail Murashko,
Minister of Healthcare of Russia

Date

01.02.2024

Meeting with Sergey Glagolev,
Deputy Minister of Healthcare of
Russia

31.10.2024

NUMBER OF
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

5

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

5

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, 2024

The most important GR issues for the WG in 2024 were:

- › digital labelling of radio electronic products including spare parts/components of medical devices;
- › registration issues of medical devices;
- › import substitution, national regime in the procurement of goods for state and municipal needs;
- › application of typical technical characteristics of the medical devices;
- › clinical trials of medical devices;
- › VAT on foreign production – prospects and possible changes.

The issues were addressed at the WG meetings and high-level briefings with Mikhail Murashko, Minister of Healthcare of Russia, Sergey Glagolev, Deputy Minister of Healthcare of Russia; Maxim Shaskolskiy, Head of Federal Antimonopoly Service of Russia.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Carl Zeiss; GE Healthcare; Karl Storz; Nizhpharm; Philips; Roche Diagnostics Rus; RP Canon Medical Systems; Samsung Electronics; SERVIER; Siemens Healthcare; Varian Medical Systems

WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP ON THE REGULATION OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

CHAIRPERSON

Irina Kartashova, Director for Technical Regulation and External Relations, Procter & Gamble

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Tatyana Dvoryakina, AVON Beauty Products Company

Maria Konovalova, Dow Europe GmbH Representation office

Olga Limonchenko, LAB Industries

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Akzo Nobel Coatings; Allnex Belgorod; Avon Beauty Products Company; BASF; Bayer; British American Tobacco Russia; Brother; BOSCH Group; Caterpillar Eurasia; Dow Europe GmbH Representation office; Evonik; Hempel; JTI Russia; Kaercher; Knauf Group CIS; LAB Industries; Merck; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Procter & Gamble; ПОКБУЛ; Reckitt Benckiser (RB Hygiene); Shell Exploration and Production Services (RF) B.V.; Tikkurila

NUMBER OF
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

5

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

10

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024, the Working Group focused on: work to the several drafts of the Russian TR "On Safety of Chemicals" to support the development of modern and transparent chemical regulation in Russia and removing barriers to doing business that were present in the drafts; comments to the GOST 0333-2022 "Passport of Safety" as part of TR EAEU 041/2017 "On Safety of Chemicals" as well as on the draft Recommendations on Standardization R 50.1.102 "Compilation and execution of Safety Data sheet for chemical products"; proposals on exclusion of alcohol-containing chemical products for laboratory diagnostics and biopharmaceutical production from the scope of Federal Law No. 171-FZ.

The WG members analyzed the draft legislative acts and the AEB position was officially posted on www.regulation.gov.ru, and submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The WG identified the most pressing issues and addressed them with several letters to representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as well as to the EEC which should allow harmonizing the application of adopted and drafted acts, and chemical industry enterprises will be able to prepare for the entry into force of technical regulations.

With the aim to deliver the industry position to the Ministry, WG members took part in the Round Table "Ensuring the functioning of the technical regulation system in the chemical industry" created by the Ministry during XII Moscow International Chemical Forum.

WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

CHAIRPERSON

Pavel Rudyakov, Senior Technical Regulation Manager,
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS RUS COMPANY

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Round table on the new EPR
legislation and experiment for
importers

Date

05.04.24

NUMBER OF
WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS

5

NUMBER OF
LOBBYING
LETTERS

12

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, 2024

- › “Business Quarterly” magazine on extended producer responsibility.
- › Active direct communication with authorities (PPK REO and MinTrade) and as a result – a lot of valuable information for AEB members on how to implement new changes in the regulation.
- › A Telegram chat for rapid communication of WG participants was launched (40+ participants at the moment).
- › On April 5, the Round Table “Waste Management Reform and Other Tools for Forming a Closed Cycle Economy” was organized. The event was attended by stakeholders in the field of waste management regulation – the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia, REO.
- › Participation of WG representatives in meetings of industrial Committees to provide up-to-date information.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Adama; Akzo Nobel; Auchan; Avon; B1; BASF; Bayer; Bonduelle; Brother; BSHG; Campari; Cementum; CLAAS; Ekoniva; Ferrero; Glassfuture; H&N; Haleon; Heidelbergcement; ITMS; JDE; JTI; Kappa RUS; Kept; Kesarev; Kraftheinz; Lab Industries; Lamoda; Lemana PRO; L’Oreal; Mars; Melling; Voitishkin & Partners; Metro; Multon; M.Video; Nestle; Nikon; P&G; PepsiCo; Perfetti Van Melle Co.; Pernod-Ricard; Philip Morris; Reckitt; ПОКВУЛ; Samsung; Sapozhnikov & Partners; Schneider Group; Seamless Legal; Servier; Sipcam; Solgar; Syngenta; TeDo; TIAR-Center; Unilever; Versuni

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

NORTH-WESTERN
REGIONAL COMMITTEECOMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

The Committee's activities in 2024 were aimed at developing relationships with both government authorities and expanding relationships with other chambers and associations.

The Committee held 2 large conferences, a couple of joint events – in total 18 events and 14 Subcommittee meetings. Much attention was paid to the acute problem of staff shortage, and the Committee held a series of meetings and events on this topic, including a joint event with Avito Job and with the St. Petersburg International Business Association.

Developing relations with government structures of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region, the Committee members actively participated in the events, including BRIEF'24 and the Tax Conference of the St. Petersburg Business Ombudsman's Office. Customs control issues have always been on the agenda of the Committee members, therefore, close cooperation with representatives of the North-Western Customs Administration (SZTU) is especially important and valuable in the current realities.

In 2024, the Committee continued to develop its corporate volunteering vector, and more and more AEB members participated in corporate volunteering and charity events.

CHAIRPERSON

Yelena Kiyanova, Manager, Corporate Affairs North Region,
Philip Morris Sales and Marketing

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Elena Novoselova, Deputy General Manager, Regional
Development, Russia & CIS, Coleman Group

Sergey Vasiliev, Legal Director, Head of Foreign Trade and
Customs Regulation Practice, Denuo Branch in St.
Petersburg

Diana Voronina, GR Manager, JACOBS DOUWE
EGBERTS RUS

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events	Date
Winter cocktail	13.02.2024
Joint event with Corinthia Hotel "Creative thinking in business"	14.03.2024
Open Meeting "Practical aspects of labor relations"	22.05.2024
Joint event by the AEB North- Western Regional Committee and Avito Job dedicated to the topic of personnel shortage in the country	29.05.2024
AEB NWRC Conference "Global problems, universal solutions"	17.06.2024
Lunch with diplomats (macroeconomic review + companies' experience)	18.06.2024
Joint event with Astoria Hotel (visit to the Yeltsin Library)	01.07.2024
"HR Spotlight"	17.10.2024

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB external events

Meeting with SZTU	24.10.2024
Joint event with SPIBA at Philip Morris Izhora	06.12.2024
"The 'Sleeping' Mode of Foreign Companies - How to Continue to Work Successfully?"	10.12.2024

AEB external events

Volunteer event "Green Games 3.0"	29.06.2024
IX St. Petersburg Corporate Volunteering Conference	04.09.2024
BRIEF'24	12.09.2024
Volunteer event at Peterhof	04.10.2024
Tax Conference organized by Business Ombudsman of St. Petersburg	16.10.2024
New Year Volunteer event (rehabilitation center)	13.12.2024

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

14

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVANT Beiten; Akzo Nobel Coating N.V.; ALRUD Law Firm; AMS (Agency for Meta Strategies); Ariston Thermo Rus; Astoria Hotel Complex; Astros Logistics; B1; Banca Intesa; BASF; Bellerage; BIOCAD; Bionorica; BLCONS Group; Caterpillar Eurasia; Cementum (Holcium); Citibank; Coleman Group; Commerzbank (Eurasija); Credit Agricole CIB; Denuo Branch in St. Petersburg; DHL Express; Dom Suomi; Dow Europe GmbH Representation office; EKE-Engineering; EPAM Law Offices; Faurecia Automotive Development; Ferrero Russia; GE Healthcare; GROUPE SEB-VOSTOK; H&N (Danone Russia); HeidelbergCement Rus; HEINEKEN BREWERIES; Herinckx Trade Solutions; Ikon Tyres; ING Wholesale Banking in Russia; Intermark Relocation; International Hotel Investments (Benelux) B.V. (Corinthia Hotel); Italcantieri; ITMS Russia (BAT); JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS; JTI Russia; JUNGHEINRICH; JURALINK; Kappa RUS; Kept; Knauf Group CIS; KraftHeinz Vostok Ltd; LAB Industries; Lemana PRO; Legrand; Macro - Advisory Ltd.; Manpower; Marillion; Mars Incorporated; Melling, Voitishkin & Partners; Mikenopa Eastern Europe a.s.; Mondelez; MOST SERVICE; Multon Partners; NAWINIA; Nextons St. Petersburg; Nordic School of Economics in Russia; Novartis Group Russia; Novo Nordisk A/S; NOYTECH Logistics Rus; OMV Branch Russia Upstream GmbH (Austria); Pepeliaev Group; Perfetti Van Melle Co., Ltd; Philip Morris Sales & Marketing; Philips; Ponimau; PPG Tikkurila Россия; Prime Products; Procter & Gamble; quality partners; Raiffeisenbank; Rhenus Intermodal Systems; ROCA; POKBYJ; Rosbank; Saint-Gobain CIS; SAF-NEVA; Sapozhnikov & Partners; SCHNEIDER GROUP; SEAMLESS Legal; SOGAZ Insurance Group; Specta; Systeme Electric; Taglex (Yusen Logistics Rus); Thuricum Insurance Company; TIAR-Center; Top Lubricants; TORG; UniCredit Bank; Uniper Global Commodities SE; WELLGO

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

SOUTHERN REGIONAL
COMMITTEECOMMITTEE
ACTIVITIES, 2024

In 2024 the Committee continued its purposeful work aimed at preserving the interests of the member companies and bilateral cooperation with regional governmental authorities, business and non-profit associations, other key stakeholders.

In 2024, the Committee co-organized 3 events within the framework of the long-term program "Time for New Strategies" on topics most relevant to the business community of the South of Russia. These events were attended by the key officials of the Krasnodar regional administration, Deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and of the Legislative Assembly of the Krasnodar Region, representatives of regional business community.

The "Business School" project of the 2023-2024 academic year was completed: 51 students and 9 teachers became graduates of the project. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the "Business Schools" project continues in 3 universities of the Krasnodar Region. The Business Schools is a joint project of 14 leading companies in the region, of which 12 are members of the AEB Southern Regional Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Advocates Bureau Yug; B1; Banca Intesa; BAYER; Bonduelle-Kuban; Cargill; Center-invest Bank; CLAAS; Daccord; H&N; Italcantieri; Kept; Knauf Group CIS; KWS RUS; LARTA GLASS; Limagrain; Multon Partners; Nestle Rossiya; Philip Morris Sales and Marketing; Philips; Raiffeisenbank; Rosbank; Syngenta; Systeme Electric; UniCredit Bank; VEGAS LEX

NUMBER OF
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

13

CHAIRPERSON

Oleg Zharko, Corporate Affairs Director Center South Region, Health and Nutrition company (H&N)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS

Lubov Popova, SRC 1st Deputy Chairperson, Adviser, Vegas LEX

Diana Lipinskaya, SRC Deputy Chairperson, Director of the Krasnodar's branch, Center-invest Bank

Yuri Pustovit, SRC Deputy Chairperson, Managing Partner, Advocate Bureau "Yug"

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB events

Conference "Corporate volunteering in the region as an effective tool for interaction between business and society"

Date

11.04.2024

Conference "Topical issues of staff retention and efficiency improvement"

30.05.2024

Meeting of the Coordinating Council of the Business School Program

03.07.2024

Joint interregional session of the AEB HR Committee, the NWRC and the SRC "HR spotlight of the Russian regions: priorities and solutions for the HR market in Russia"

17.10.2024

Reception of the SRC

24.10.2024

Conference "Interaction of employers with universities and colleges: effective strategies to overcome the shortage of personnel"

19.12.2024

ORGANIZED EVENTS

AEB external events

Graduation Ceremony of the Business School at the Yuzhniy Federal University 2023-2024

Graduation Ceremony of the Business School at the Kuban State Agrarian University 2023-2024

Advisory Council on Foreign Investment under the Governor of the Krasnodar Region meeting

Graduation Ceremony of the Business School at the Kuban State Technological University 2023-2024

Graduation Ceremony of the Business School at the Kuban State University 2023-2024

Date

28.02.2024

26.03.2024

18.04.2024

26.04.2024

15.05.2024

AEB external events

School year 2024-2025 opening ceremony of the Business School at the Kuban State Agrarian University 2024-2025

School year 2024-2025 opening ceremony of the Business School at the Kuban State Technological University 2024-2025

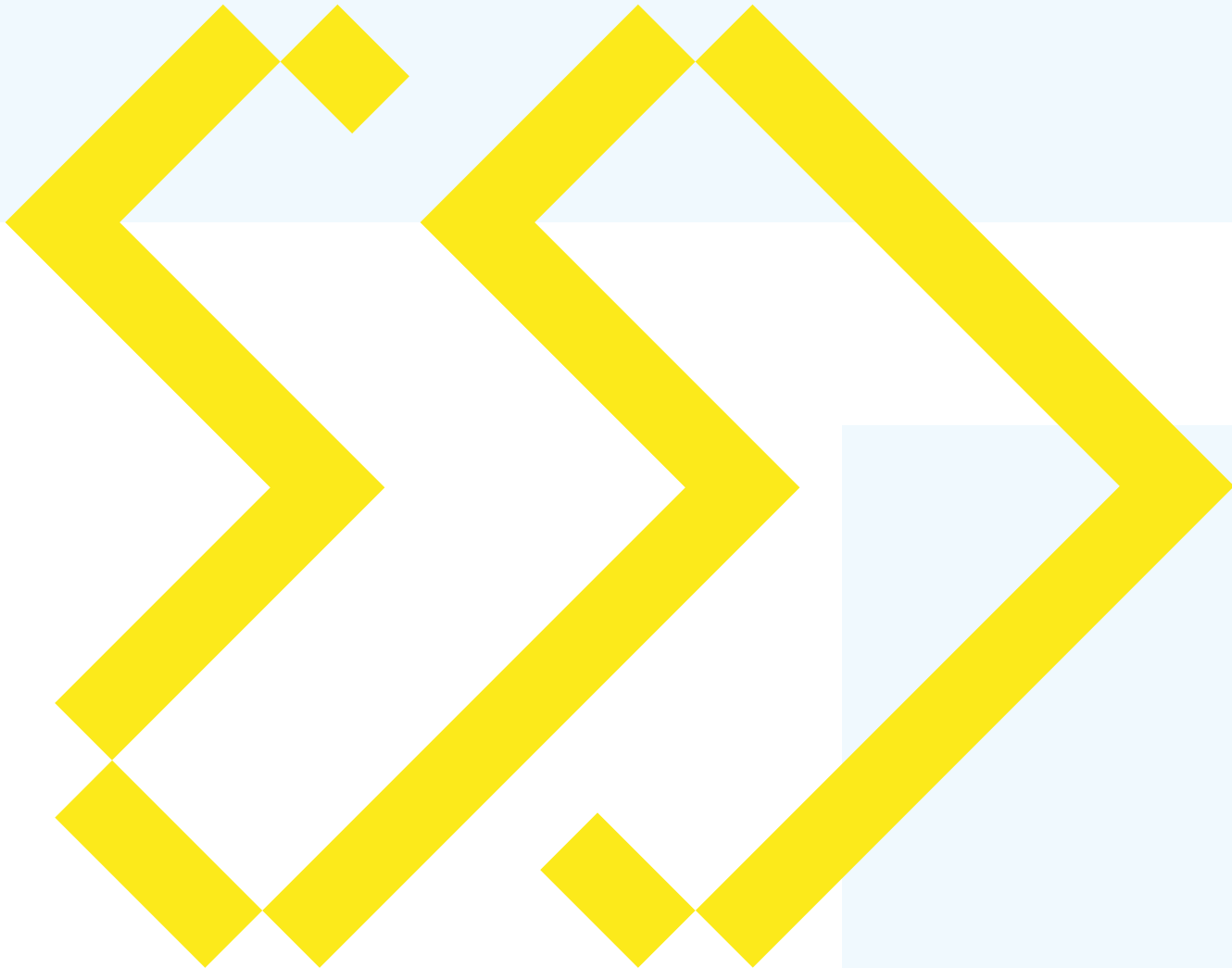
School year 2024-2025 opening ceremony of the Business School at the Kuban State University 2024-2025

Date

26.09.2024

23.10.2024

20.11.2024



MAJOR EVENTS

AMC ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE

On January 11, 2024 the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee organized its annual press conference "Overview 2023". Alexey Kalitsev, Chairman of the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee, spoke about the state of the automotive industry, sales results in 2023 and expected prospects for 2024. He also shared the results of the Committee's work and spoke about the changes in AEB statistics on sales of light and light commercial vehicles.



AEB NETWORKING EVENT "TUNES OF SPRING"

On February 29, 2024 an AEB business networking event "Tunes of Spring" was organized. Ilona Zekely, AEB Board Chairperson, welcomed the guests and expressed gratitude to all those who came to exchange views. The AEB CEO Tadzio Schilling spoke about recent AEB activities and upcoming plans. The event traditionally brought together many attendees.



JOINT EVENT WITH JAPAN BUSINESS CLUB AND JETRO

On February 29, 2024 a joint round table with the Japan Business Club and the Japan External Trade Development Organization (JETRO) was organized. Welcome speeches were delivered by Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, Katsuhiko Funabiki, President of the Japan Business Club, and Norimasa Shimada, Director of JETRO. The participants discussed recent experiences of Japanese companies facing customs control, the results of a survey of Japanese companies on customs regulations, and practical aspects of export and import presented by AEB experts.



AEB ANNUAL HUMAN RESOURCES CONFERENCE

On March 14, 2024 the AEB annual HR conference “The future of human resources: beyond the breaking point” was organized. The invited guest covered the transformation of approaches and challenges in the field of staff development and retention. As part of the conference three parallel sessions were held by the Compensation and Benefits Subcommittee, the Assessment, Training and Development Subcommittee, and the Recruitment and Relocation Subcommittee.



AEB ANNUAL CUSTOMS CONFERENCE

The 18th AEB annual customs conference “Prospects for the development of customs legislation and practice. Dialogues on important issues” was organized on April 11, 2024. A plenary session featured speakers representing the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Ministry of Finance of Russia, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia, the Federal Customs Service. Two round tables were organized as part of the conference: on issues of including dividends in the customs value and on topical issues of customs control after the release of goods.



AEB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On April 25, 2024 the AEB Annual General Meeting was organized. The meeting was chaired by Marc Dellaert, Chairman of the AEB Council of National Representation. Ilona Zekely, AEB Board Chairperson, shared a strategic outlook, and Tadzio Schilling, AEB CEO, presented an AEB annual report for 2023 and a financial plan for 2024. Elections to the AEB Board and Auditing Commission took place. As part of the AGM, a professional panel discussion “Overcoming unsurmountable challenges” was held.



AEB ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

On May 29, 2024 a conference “Intellectual property rights: recent trends, practices, issues and solutions” was organized. The conference covered key issues in the area of intellectual property in Russia and the EAEU, including an overview of legislation improvements, established practices in applying regulatory acts, court practices, etc. The speakers represented the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Court of Intellectual Rights, the Eurasian Patent Office, the Federal Service for Intellectual Property, the Federal Antimonopoly Service, and AEB member companies.



STRATEGIES AND PROSPECTS FOR EUROPEAN COMPANIES IN RUSSIA

On June 14, 2024 AEB presented the results of the 17th annual survey “Strategies and prospects for European companies in Russia”. Having reached a record low of 80 points on a scale from 0 to 200 in 2022, the annual AEB Business Climate Index quickly recovered to 116 points in 2023 and continued to rise by a further 11 points in 2024, reaching 127 out of 200 points, thereby entering into the zone of positive expectations.



AEB TAX CONFERENCE

On July 19, 2024 a conference “Modernization of the Russian tax system: key points for business” was organized. It provided an overview of upcoming amendments within the Russian tax system fine-tuning and changes in transfer pricing legislation, as well as issues related to cross-border transactions and intra-group operations, trends in law enforcement and tax control practice. Among the participants were representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Federal Tax Service, the State Duma Committee on Budget and Taxes.



AEB NETWORKING EVENT "A NIGHT IN SAN REMO"

On September 19, 2024 AEB organized a networking event "A night in San Remo" to symbolically launch a new business season. The event was attended by more than 250 participants – members, partners and friends of the Association. All those present embarked on an imaginary journey through sunny San Remo to plunge into the unique atmosphere of its famous festival.



EURASIAN LOGISTICS DAY

On October 15, 2024 AEB in cooperation with the International Coordinating Council on Trans-Eurasian Transportation (ICCTT) organized the first joint event "Eurasian Logistics Day. Logistics in the New World: Changes, Challenges, Solutions". The participants discussed topical issues of the logistics industry: VAT taxation in international transportation, labelling of imported goods, problems and solutions in mutual settlements with foreign counterparts.



AEB FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE 2024

On November 13, 2024 AEB held its 20th anniversary flagship conference "European business in Russia: what role in the new economic order?" A welcome speech was delivered by Thomas Staertzel, AEB Board Chairman. Among the panelists were economists, analysts, high-ranking officials and representatives of European business in Russia.



AEB-AMCHAM BUSINESS NETWORKING

On November 14, 2024 AEB in partnership with the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia (AmCham) organized a networking event “Embracing ESG for a Sustainable Future”. Tazio Schilling, AEB CEO, and Robert Agee, President and CEO of AmCham, welcomed guests and noted that the joint event of AEB and AmCham had become a good tradition uniting the business circles of the European and American business communities in Russia. .



AEB ANNUAL TAX CONFERENCE

On December 3, 2024 an annual tax conference “Tax results of the year. Dialogues on what matters” was organized. Among the participants were representatives from the Ministry of Finance, and the Federal Tax Service. The speakers discussed upcoming changes and trends in Russian tax legislation, corporate restructuring issues (tax consequences and risks), as well as trends in court practice.



AEB ANNUAL MIGRATION CONFERENCE

On December 12, 2024 the 17th AEB annual migration conference “Attraction of foreign workers under current conditions” was organized. The participants discussed issues related to residence permits for investors, rules for hiring highly qualified specialists, recruitment of foreign workers and changes in the rules for passing exams on knowledge of the Russian language. Among the speakers were representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Development.



COMMUNICATIONS, PR AND ANALYTICS



The Marketing, PR and Analytics Department helps members to navigate the Association's activities and keep abreast of news, initiatives and events both within AEB and globally. We are always open to feedback, questions and suggestions, constantly working to improve the quality of our services to provide maximum value and tangible results for our members. We promptly provide AEB members with up-to-date information on key events, trends and legislative changes, maintaining a high level of awareness.

One of the key values of the Association is to bring together experts and professionals of the highest level to find solutions and answers to topical issues. Surveys are important tools for gathering the views of AEB members. In 2024, we conducted more than 15 surveys, the results of which are used at events and Committee meetings. Surveys help us better understand our members' interests, concerns and the state of the business environment. We thank members for active participation in the surveys, which allows us to better represent and promote their interests.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

AEB DAILY

Year 2024 was full of important economic and business events. The most significant of them were reflected in our specialized newsletter AEB Daily, which includes reviews of Russian and foreign press, changes in regulation and sanctions news. The demand for the newsletter is confirmed by a high readership rate of more than 30%.

AEB ALERT

AEB responds quickly to new challenges by providing member companies with up-to-date information through open communication channels. One such channel is the AEB Alert newsletter. In 2024, AEB members received 15 newsletters dedicated to pressing issues, such as sanctions and migration changes, directly affecting the operations of foreign companies in Russia.

AEB WEEKLY

The AEB Weekly newsletter is published weekly to keep members informed about GR activities, AEB events, member news and regulatory changes. The first issue was released on January 17, 2019, and since then, the newsletter has not only remained relevant, but has shown steady audience interest (over 40% reads). Over 300 issues have been sent since then. AEB Weekly remains one of the most read AEB newsletters, entering the top 3.

AEB TELEGRAM CHANNEL

In 2024, the AEB Telegram channel (@aeb_news) reached 1200 subscribers. The channel publishes daily announcements of AEB events, as well as the latest relevant business news from Russia and the world.



AEB Telegram
channel
JOIN US!



MEDIA RELATIONS

MEDIA COVERAGE

In 2024, AEB maintained a modest approach to its media activity. According to Interfax-Scan, the Association was mentioned in the media over 4 500 times. Among the top media resources citing AEB are such federal media as Interfax, RIA Novosti, TASS, RBC.

PRESS EVENTS

In 2024, AEB held its traditional press conference – the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee’s annual press conference “Overview 2023” dedicated to the results of

passenger cars and light commercial vehicles sales in Russia. Since 2024, the monthly automotive press release includes a more detailed commentary from the Committee Chairman regarding the state and prospects for the automotive market. AEB’s monthly car sales statistics remained a key source of data and expert opinion on the market.

The presentation of the results of the annual AEB-GfK Rus survey “Strategies and prospects for European companies in Russia” retained the traditionally high level of references in the federal media. A significant increase in press touchpoints for AEB management and member companies took place within the International Moscow Automotive Forum IMAF 2024.

Post-releases from government officials following official meetings with AEB also received fairly wide coverage.

ANALYTICS

STATISTICS

For many years, AEB has been very well known for its statistics projects. We have been running sales statistics projects for the Automobile Manufacturers Committee, Agribusiness Committee and Crop Protection Committee.

SURVEYS

A traditional survey “Strategies and prospects for European companies in Russia” was conducted in 2024. The survey can serve a relative indicator of the business environment perception by companies and summarizes their sentiments and expectations.

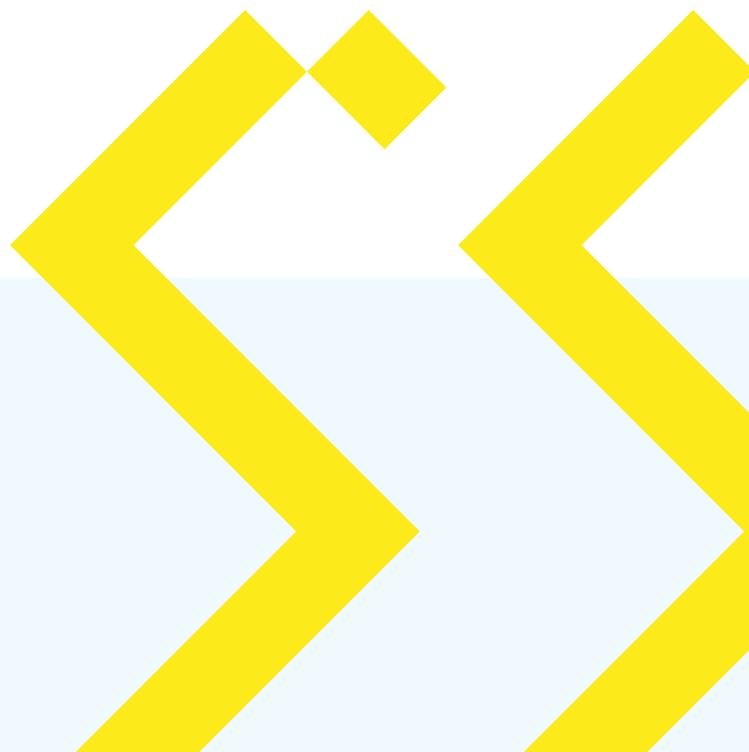
The 2024 Member Satisfaction Survey aimed to accumulate companies’ opinions evaluating AEB activities over the year and offering meaningful changes.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2024, a series of the AEB “Business Quarterly” periodicals covered the following topics: extended producer and importer responsibility; intellectual property: current regulation, trends and outlook; logistics industry: changes, challenges, solutions; occupational health and safety; psychological well-being of employees.

The AEB Position Paper was presented in the format of key issues – the most relevant topics that the Association tried to effectively address during the year.

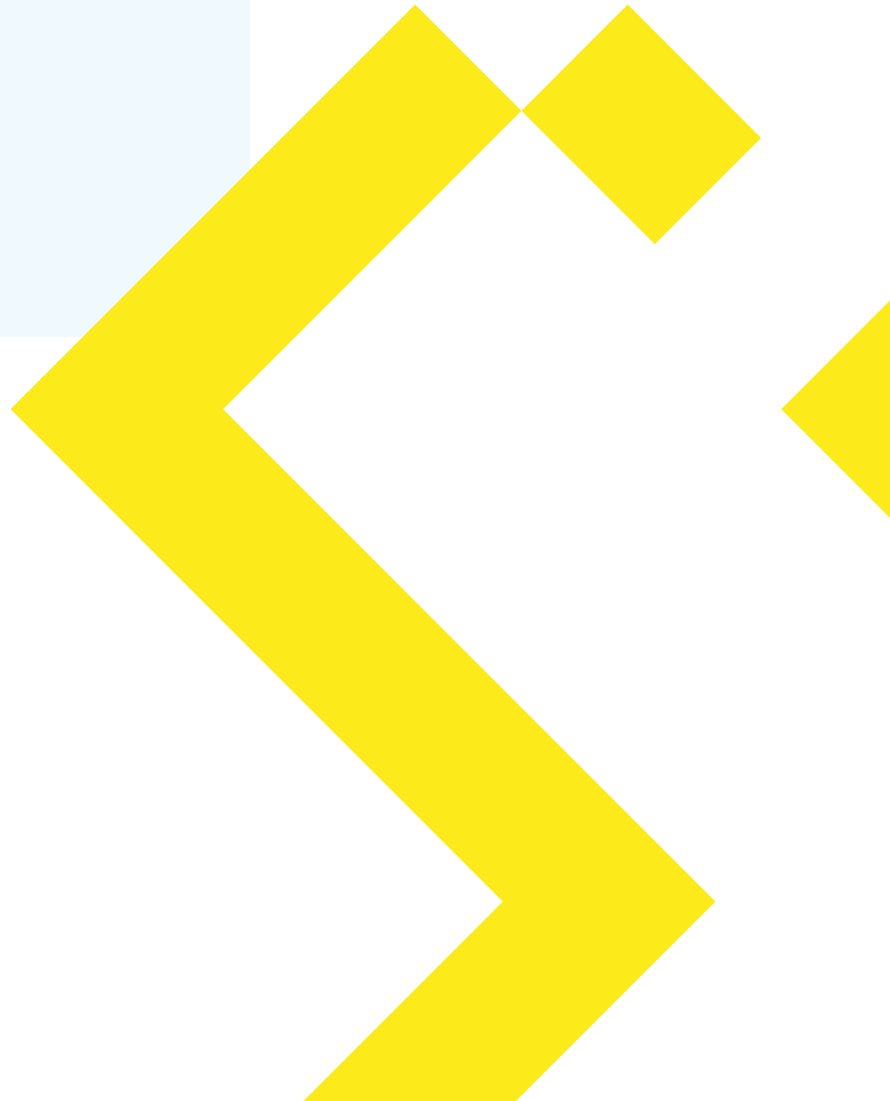
A flagship publication “Sustainability: area of common endeavor” dedicated to the issues of sustainable development and ESG was produced.

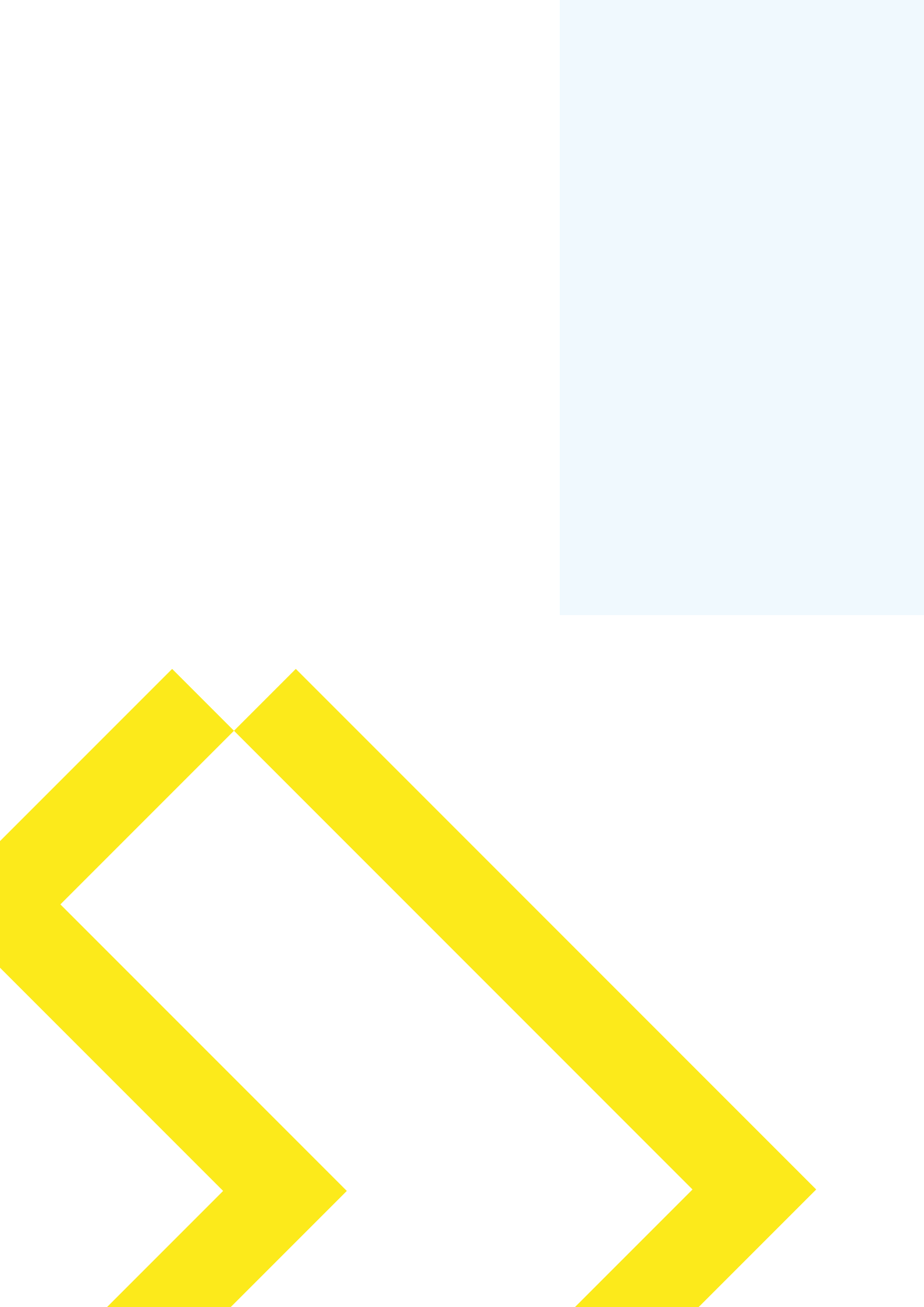


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