











# Lisbon Vladivostok

Initiative for the creation of a  
Common Economic Space

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## Idea

The vision of a Common Economic Space from Lisbon to Vladivostok can be turned into reality. The initiative sees a multi-level partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) as the core aspect of a Common Economic Space.

It is crucial to understand that cooperation between the EU and the EEU is beneficial for all sides.

Despite the different powers of the EU and the EEU, a dialogue between them should be held at both political and economic levels. This should be done through creating lasting networks between officials of the two commissions and by setting up a permanent dialogue.

The initiative was founded and is driven by businesses, business associations and think tanks from different member countries of the EU and the EEU. It sees itself as an open circle involving all countries from Lisbon to Vladivostok. The supporting institutions strive to create a movement that goes beyond the current set-ups and focusses on multilateralism.



# Working Group

The Working Group for a “Common Economic Space from Lisbon to Vladivostok” was founded in 2015 by Ulf Schneider and Alexander Rahr, together with the German-Russian Forum, the German Chamber of Commerce and the German Eastern Business Association. The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, RSPP, Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and other chambers followed thereafter. Corporates such as Siemens, Severstal, Schneider-Electric and many SMEs have joined the initiative.

A Memorandum, signed by all members, reflects the core objectives of the Working Group.

## Let us start working together!

Besides establishing a free trade zone in the long-run, There are many regulatory and technical areas where we can already start working together right now:

- **LONG TERM GOALS:**
  - Free trade agreement
  - Visa free regime
- **MID TERM GOALS:**
  - Harmonization of technical standards
  - Harmonization of customs regulations
  - Visa liberalization

## Aim of the Working Group

- Strengthening the idea of a Common Economic Space on the political agenda of the EU, EEU and the member states.
- Being a counterbalance to growing global protectionism.
- Bringing to the table the possibility of a free trade agreement between the EU and the EEU.

Since 2017, a rapprochement between the two commissions was achieved, which materialized in informal talks on the grounds and regular exchanges during the working group sessions.



# Memorandum

## On a Common Economic Space from Lisbon to Vladivostok

We, the signatories, share the vision of a Common Economic Space from Lisbon to Vladivostok. In order to achieve this, **we ask the political actors in all countries of the EU and the EEU to give the European Commission and the Eurasian Economic Commission respectively the mandate to start an official dialogue on the harmonization of regulations.** This dialogue should also respect the interests of all countries in Europe, which are trading partners of both economic areas. We see this commitment to a Common Economic Space as a clear statement against protectionism, a statement, which we believe is more important now than ever before.

### Economic Benefits

- A dialogue on a far-reaching congruent application of customs procedures, common rules of certification, common technical standards, visa free travel and capital movement would contribute towards an economic upswing and increase the competitiveness of Europe and Eurasia.
- Simplified tax regulations, recognition of official documents and the harmonization of relevant jurisdictions could open the door to a common judicial area.
- Our Common Economic Space brings together countries with considerable raw material resources and countries with highly innovative enterprises. It also combines Western engineering knowledge and experience with the outstanding IT skills in the East, thus enhancing the “fourth industrial revolution” in the EU, EEU and in the countries inbetween.
- An important factor for stronger economic cooperation is a common infrastructure. The East-West corridor needs to be developed further with common investments directed at strengthening connectivity. Simultaneously, an improvement of the conditions of transit would allow the EEU to function as a link between the EU and China, similar to China’s concept of its new Silk Road.
- Talks on a Common Economic Space shall eventually lead towards a free trade zone of more than 700 Million people in Europe and Eurasia.
- Analytical studies, for instance those of the Munich ifo-institute or the Vienna IIASA-institute, have already shed light on the distribution of economic advantages for the West as well as the East.

### Political benefits

- We believe that the proposed talks on a supranational level between the European Commission, representing 28 countries, and the Eurasian Economic Commission, representing five countries, is in the interest of all parties.
- The importance of a common space from Lisbon to Vladivostok goes beyond the economic facets. Built on the principles of the international law and OECD, a common humanitarian space, where people can travel without bureaucratic hindrances, creates peace and plays an important role to give new impulses to the current situation and further economic development.
- We believe in initiating steps that can already be taken now, in the short run, which will be useful to all countries involved and pave the way for the development of this mutually beneficial project.





# Member Companies



SAP CIS



Metro



Knauf



Knorr Bremse



Allianz Russia



Siemens



Bosch



Schneider Electric



Kirovsky Savod



Severstal



Kühne & Nagel



Raiffeisen Bank International



DÜRR AG



Bionorica



SCHNEIDER GROUP



Gebrüder Weiss



Business Zone  
Gomel Raton



backaldrin



Zeppelin



Linde



LaModa



Volkswagen Russia



Continental



DB Cargo Eurasia





# Member Companies





# Member Companies

**BEITEN  
BURKHARDT**

Beiten Burkhardt



REHAU



KPMG



Symrise



Arzinger & Partners



Hausman & Partners



IEC GmbH



Mark Formelle



Phoenix Contact



Creon Capital



Thost



DELCREDA



Gasinform Service



North it



SG Trans



Ruspolimet



Energoservice



Brezelino

Rödl & Partner

Rödl & Partner



Boos Lighting Group



Loxx Logistics



Antal



Saueressig



WR Group



# Members

## Business Associations



German Russian  
Chamber of Commerce



German Eastern  
Business Association



Russian Union of  
Industrialists and  
Entrepreneurs



Belarusian Chamber  
of Commerce and  
Industry



Russian Chamber of  
Commerce and  
Industry



Confindustria  
Russia



Belgian-Russian  
Business Club



German Belarusian  
Chamber of Commerce



German Central Asian  
Chamber of Commerce



Italian Russian Chamber  
of Commerce



French Russian  
Chamber of Commerce



Association of Russian  
Businesses in Germany



Belgian-Armenian  
Chamber of Commerce



Russian Union of  
Exhibitions and Fairs



German-Belarusian  
Business Club



Association of Banks  
of Russia



Association of Enterprises  
and Industrialists of the  
Republic of Tatarstan



Business Club Russia



Regional Association of  
Industries and Enterprises  
of the Rostov Region



Regional Association of  
Industries and Enterprises  
of the Pskov Region



Russian Association of  
Specialized Machinery  
and Equipment



Russian Association of  
Pulp & Paper Organizations  
and Enterprises



Financial & Business  
Association of  
Euro-Asian Cooperation

## Think Tanks & NGOs



ICHD – International  
Center for Human  
Development



German Russian Raw  
Materials Forum



German Russian  
Forum e.V.



OWC Foreign Trade  
Publishing House



Dialog e.V.



State University of  
Management Moscow



German-Kazakh  
University





# Event Highlights 20/21



## Moscow | March 4, 2020

- Special Conference: EAEU - EU: Outlook for 2020

### TOPIC:

- Stand the new Commissions in the EU and the EAEU for Dialogue?
- Russian Chamber of Commerce joins the Initiative

### PARTNER:

- Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



## Brussels | November 16, 2020

- Round Table with representatives from EU and EAEU

### TOPIC:

- Foster common markets between the EU and EAEU



## Vienna | April 15, 2021

- Lisbon-Vladivostok Conference

### PARTNER:

- Industrial Association Austria (IV)



# Task Forces

The task forces work on practical policy recommendations in the form of White Papers. Recommendations are inspired by industries' real experience and are developed jointly with the companies themselves.

## Taskforce I: Visa-free Regime

Nowadays we have inconsistent visa regimes in place throughout the area from Lisbon to Vladivostok. This fact has virulent negative economic impacts for countries, businesses, and individuals in EU and EEU alike and it calls for action.

The taskforce aims for three key objectives:

- Short-term: simplification of visa application procedures (using leeway of existing visa codes, e.g. by reducing costs and number of required documents, introducing online applications)
- Middle-term: abolition of visa regime for short-term business trips and tourism (Belarus model)
- Long-term: establishment of visa-free travel from Lisbon to Vladivostok

The harmonization of visa regimes is an important political signal in times of current widespread political tensions. The free movement of ideas, education and people is an invaluable social benefit of a visa-free regime.

## Taskforce II: Harmonizing Technical Regulation

EEU member states work on the enormous task of modernizing their set of technical rules, norms, and standards. Around 40% of regulations have not yet been updated since times of the Soviet Union. EU and EEU could take that fact as a chance to closely work together in order to harmonize technical regulation.

The Initiatives taskforce aims for the following key objectives:

- Establishment of a channel of communication and a working mode between EU and EEU institutions such as EEC and CEN/CENELEC
- Start of a formal process of standards harmonization between EU and EEU bodies
- Mutual acceptance of test laboratories and their test reports as basis for conformity assessment certification
- Harmonization of the certification/ declaration schemes of EEU with the modules of the EU
- Involvement of industry and exporters in order to exchange experiences, addressing issues and find solutions

Harmonized norms and standards are an elementary pre-requirement for a Common Economic Space from Vladivostok to Lisbon. Cooperation agreements already exist. They can be the ground for a concrete collaboration on technical standards between EU and EEU.



# Events 2020/ 2021

**February 18, 2020 | Berlin**

Signing Ceremony with new members  
at AHK Conference

**March 4, 2020 | Moscow**

Special conference with Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**September 25, 2020 | Moscow**

Signing Ceremony with  
French Russian Chamber of Commerce  
Italian Russian Chamber of Commerce

**October 22, 2020 | Moscow**

Signing Ceremony with new Members  
at AHK EAEU Conference

**November 16, 2020 | Brussels**

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table

**December, 2020 | Nur-Sultan**

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table

**December, 2020 | Minsk**

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table

**Q1, 2021 | Paris**

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table

**April 15, 2021 | Vienna**

Lisbon-Vladivostok Conference with  
Industrial Association Austria

**Q2, 2021 | Lisbon**

Lisbon-Vladivostok Conference

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Vladivostok



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