

Course towards a common economic area

- **Business driven Initiative Lisbon-Vladivostok (L2V) establishes internationally staffed executive board**
- **Ulf Schneider elected chairman**
- **Successful Round Table with EEC Minister for the Economy and Finance**
- **Joint events with EU and Eurasian Economic Union**

Moscow, 19.11.2020: The business-led Initiative for a common economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok (L2V), launched five years ago, is taking a broader position: at the beginning of November, an international executive board was established with members from Austria, Belarus, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, which will coordinate the further development. The aim of the Initiative, which is now supported by over 100 companies and associations, is to identify ways of mutually reducing trade restrictions and standardizing regulations and to promote dialogue between the Commissions of the European Union (EU) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

"The Coronavirus crisis has just shown us how valuable international cooperation is. Despite all current political obstacles, we must therefore not lose sight of a common economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok. Only if we improve cooperation on our continent can we survive the fierce competition with the USA and China. We should now take the first steps on this long road and organize a dialogue between the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union. We can now ensure common rules for the major future topics of Green Deal and digitization," says **Ulf Schneider, newly elected Chairman of the Board of the Lisbon-Vladivostok Initiative and President of SCHNEIDER GROUP.**

"Even in politically difficult times, business has a responsibility to keep doors open for dialogue. We will approach both commissions with very concrete proposals in the spirit of common norms and standards".

On the agenda of the Initiative is the harmonization or mutual recognition of standards in the fields of value-added tax, transport, customs, the pharmaceutical market, the financial market, and digitization and cooperation in the field of climate and nature protection ("Green Deal").

On 16 November, important project proposals from these topics could already be discussed. At the invitation of the Minister for the Economy of the EAEU Commission, Timur Zhaxylykov, the Initiative met together with expert representatives of the commissions from Brussels and Moscow. A follow-up meeting in Brussels is being planned for spring 2021.

The next major conference will take place in Vienna on April 15, 2021. A conference in Lisbon is planned within the framework of Portugal's presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2021.

The following persons are members of the Executive Board for the years 2020/2021:

- Dr. Dietmar Fellner, former delegate of the Austrian Economy in Russia, WKÖ
- Ernesto Ferlenghi, President, Confindustria Russia
- Michael Harms, CEO, German Eastern Business Association, OA
- Emmanuel Quidet, President, Franco-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CCIFR
- Alexander Rahr, Association of Russian Businesses in Germany
- Matthias Schepp, Chairman of the Board, German-Russian Chamber of Commerce, AHK
- Ulf Schneider, President & Founder, SCHNEIDER GROUP
- Alexander Shokhin, President, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, RSPP
- Vladimir Ulakhovich, Chairman, Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CCI BY
- Johan Vanderplaetse, President, Association of European Business in Russia, AEB, Vice-President, Schneider Electric

About the Lisbon-Vladivostok Initiative:

Since 2015, the Initiative has been working to establish an official dialogue between the European Union (EU) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The EAEU is an economic alliance founded in 2014 by the states of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. The economic area represents a promising market with a population of 183 million, which is one third of the total population of the EU.

Further information is available at www.lisbon-vladivostok.pro.

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