



Lisbon Vladivostok

Initiative for the creation of a
Common Economic Space

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The vision of a common economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok has a long history since the 1950s.

The Initiative believes that this vision can be turned into reality, and sees a multi-level partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as the core aspect of such a common economic space.

Cooperation between EU and EAEU will bring enormous benefits for trade and business, especially for small and midsize companies in Europe and Eurasia.

The Initiative was founded in 2015 and is driven by businesses, business associations, and think tanks from different member countries of the EU and the EAEU. Among the founding members are the German-Russian Forum, the German Chamber of Commerce, and the German Eastern Business Association, as well as corporations such as Siemens, Bosch, Severstal, and many others.

Today the Initiative counts on more than 100 members from 12 countries from the EU and the EAEU. It sees itself as an open circle involving all countries from Lisbon to Vladivostok. The supporting institutions strive to create a multi-laterally-focused movement that goes beyond the status quo.



The markets of the EU and the EAEU cover a total of more than 630 million inhabitants with diverse markets that can complement each other. A common economic area can develop the necessary strength to effectively work together on our European and Eurasian continents to address the global issues of the future.

Despite different levels of development of the two Unions, a dialogue, first of all on regulatory and technical level, should be moved forward. This should be done through creating lasting networks between officials of the two commissions and by maintaining regular dialogue in the countries of the EU and the EAEU.

Aim of the Initiative

- Being a counterbalance to growing global protectionism.
- Advancing the possibility of a free trade agreement between the EU and the EAEU.
- Developing concrete proposals for cooperation in the interest of business of the EU and the EAEU.

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

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
 - Shaping the Green Deal
 - Harmonization of pharmaceutical regulations
 - Alignment of VAT regulations
 - Harmonization of transport regulations

Task forces transfer the Initiative's goals into concrete action proposals.



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 EAEU 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, EAEU 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 EAEU 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 630 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 27 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.



Board of Directors 2020/2021

An annually elected international Board of Directors strategically guides the activities of the Lisbon-Vladivostok Initiative.



Ulf Schneider

Chairman of the Board
President
SCHNEIDER GROUP



Dietmar Fellner

Member of the Board
Former Economic
Delegate for Austrian
Chamber of Commerce



Ernesto Ferlenghi

Member of the Board
Executive Vice-President
Confindustria Russia



Michael Harms

Member of the Board
CEO/ German Eastern
Business Association



Emmanuel Quidet

Member of the Board
President / Franco-Russian
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Alexander Rahr

Member of the Board
German Russian Forum
Association of Russian
Businesses in Germany



Matthias Schepp

Member of the Board
Chairman of the Board
German-Russian Chamber
of Commerce



Alexander Shokhin

Member of the Board
President / Russian Union
of Industrialists and
Entrepreneurs



Vladimir Ulakhovich

Member of the Board
Chairman / Belarusian
Chamber of Commerce



Johan Vanderplaetse

Member of the Board
President / AEB
Vice-President
Schneider-Electric



Task Forces

Task forces work on practical policy recommendations in the form of position papers. Recommendations for an EU-EAEU dialogue are inspired by industries' real experience and are developed jointly with the companies themselves.

Task force 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 EAEU alike and it calls for action.

The task force 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.

Task force II: Harmonize certification procedures

EAEU member states work on the enormous task of modernizing their set of technical rules, norms, and standards. EU and EAEU could take that fact as a chance to closely work together in order to harmonize technical regulation.

The task force has the following key objectives:

- Harmonization of the certification/declaration schemes of EAEU and EU
- Involvement of industry and exporters in order to exchange experiences, addressing issues and find solutions
- Mutual acceptance of test laboratories and their test reports as basis for conformity assessment certification

Harmonized norms and standards are an elementary pre-requirement for a Common Economic Space. Already existing informal talks can be the ground for a concrete collaboration on technical standards and certification between EU and EAEU.

Task force III: Shaping the Green Deal

The European Green Deal is the EU's answer to tackle global climate and environmental-related challenges.

A set of ambitious programs with the goal to decouple economic growth from resource use and to be climate-neutral by 2050 is being developed and executed.

The EU understands very well the importance of forging alliances with its neighboring regions. After all, ambitious EU climate targets are not enough to make the world more sustainable.

The EAEU, with its 185 million inhabitants on the border with the EU, should by all means be included in this alliance.

The task force develops concrete proposals for joint activities between the EU and EAEU in order to shape the Green Deal together.



Task Forces

Task force IV: Harmonize pharma regulations

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the importance of effective cross-border cooperation in the health sector. The task force working on the pharmaceutical and medical device industry aims to present where joint projects between the EU and the EAEU should start. The aim must be to increase innovative strength, harmonize standards, and ensure mutual recognition of regulations.

The EAEU is in the process of developing a common pharma market by 2025.

The upcoming years should be used most effectively to work on joint projects.

Alignment of GMP inspections, mutual recognition of drug approvals, and harmonization of pharmacopeias are some of the areas where pharma dialogue can start.

Task force V: Harmonize customs and transport regulations

What is the future of the Eurasian zone in the economic interplay between Europe and China? The logistics and customs task force sets focuses on identifying opportunities for cooperation between the EU and EAEU. The development of transport and logistics hubs along the long transport corridors has an enormous potential to strengthen the regions along the transit routes economically.

There is great potential in the development of infrastructure. The task force has the following key objectives:

- CO2 certificate for the transport industry
- Harmonization of customs documents in the framework of digitization processes
- Align trade tariff numbers
- Develop an EU / EAEU connectivity strategy

Task force VI: Align VAT regulations

There is great potential in implementing the principle of VAT neutrality in cross-border transactions between EU and EAEU countries and within the EAEU, where the place of sale is determined by the buyer's place of registration.

The task force is convinced that the interests of the two unions in tax issues are similar and believes that significant progress can be made in trade by implementing harmonization projects.

The task force therefore proposes putting forward a legislative initiative to the EAEU Treaty and the national legislation of the member states.



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



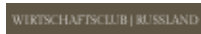
Russian Union of
Exhibitions and Fairs



German-Belarusian
Business Club



Association of Banks
of Russia



Business Club Russia



Russian Association of
Specialized Machinery
and Equipment



Russian Association of
Pulp & Paper Organizations
and Enterprises



Belgian-Luxembourg
Chamber of Commerce
in Russia



Financial & Business
Association of
Euro-Asian Cooperation



Russian-German Trade
Guild in Hamburg



Chamber of Commerce
and Industry
Luso-Russian



Portuguese Business
Association

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



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SAP CIS



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Knauf



Knorr Bremse



Allianz Russia



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DB Cargo Eurasia



Wintershall Dea



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Spectrum



Russ Invest



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



Boos Lighting Group



Loxx Logistics



Antal



Saueressig



WR Group



Events 2020/ 2021

March 4, 2020 | Moscow

Special conference with Russian
Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**November 16, 2020 |
Moscow / Brussels**

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table

Q1, 2021 | Nur-Sultan

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table with
Chamber of International Commerce
of Kazakhstan

April 15, 2021 | Vienna

Lisbon-Vladivostok Conference
with Industrial Association Austria

Q2, 2021 | Lisbon

The Conference of a Common Economic
Space with Portuguese business
associations

Q2, 2021 | Berlin

Round Table on Common Pharma
Markets

Q2, 2021 | Brussels

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table

September, 2021 | Moscow

Lisbon-Vladivostok at Russian Business Week
& signing ceremony with new members

Q3, 2021 | Rome & Milan

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Tables

Q3, 2021 | Ljubljana

Lisbon-Vladivostok Round Table

October, 2021 | Moscow

EAEU conference of AHK &
signing ceremony with new members

Q4, 2021 | Paris

Shaping the Green Deal with EU and EAEU

November, 2021

Annual strategic meeting for members

Initiative for the creation of a
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Lisbon
Vladivostok



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