

## **The first step on a long road to a unified certification from Lisbon to Vladivostok**

*European and Eurasian experts have outlined specific steps towards harmonization of legislation in the field of certification and are preparing specific proposals at the EU and the EAEU level.*

On February 25, 2021, the first meeting of the Certification Task Force, created under the Initiative Lisbon-Vladivostok, was held. In Zoom format, more than a dozen authoritative experts in the field of certification, as well as representatives of the largest industry associations supporting the Initiative Lisbon-Vladivostok, discussed common approaches to harmonizing the EU and the EAEU legislation in the field of certification. The heads of the Task Force for certification Gerd Slapke and Sven Grube presented an overview of the key problems hindering the development of certain areas of business between companies from the EU and the EAEU. Mr. Slapke noted: "We don't start our work from zero. During these six years since the start of our Initiative, we have identified common topical problems and now the task of the Task Force is to prepare specific decisions addressed to both the European Commission and the Eurasian Economic Commission." According to Mr. Grube, it is important to keep the focus on a specific problem: "We should not stop on the way of harmonizing rules and procedures and take steady steps forward, however small". The event was attended by the Chairman of the Board of the Initiative Lisbon-Vladivostok Ulf Schneider: "We do not want revolution. Our proposals are local and focused. They contribute to the development of business activity in the space from Lisbon to Vladivostok. "Industry experts from Germany, France, Belarus and Russia presented their reports. The experts noted the existence of common problems on testing (probation), certification, as well as mutual recognition of laboratory research results. In specific product lines experts highlighted the existing international standards and emphasized the need for the preserved certification at export-import transactions. The representative of the RSPP Andrew Lotsmanov said: "Great progress in the harmonization of the question with technical regulations we have achieved within the existing regular the EU-Russia dialogue. It is extremely important that such dialogue will be resumed at the level of the EU and the EAEC authorities." The importance of technical regulations and standardization in the formation of industrial policy was noted by many speakers. According to Mr. Schneider: "Common standards bring countries closer together, and supporters of the Initiative Lisbon-Vladivostok are asking politicians for assistance in removing barriers to business cooperation." The experts noted that the current standardization system was created almost a hundred years ago for the second technological order that existed at that time. Today, in the age of Industry 4.0, the outdated certification system needs a significant update. In preparing the proposals, the experts agreed that it is necessary to use a pilot product and use it as an example to work out a mechanism for mutual recognition of certification tests. Schneider Electric representative Andrey Solovyov expressed his readiness to provide the company's products for the implementation of a pilot project. Representative of BELLIS Ekaterina Mukha expressed confidence in the possibility of mutual recognition of product test results due to the participation of many laboratories and certification bodies in supranational associations such as the international conformity assessment system IECCE. "We must be guided by the principle - one product, one test, which will ensure, including the export of national manufacturers", the expert said. At the end of the event, the experts agreed that it is necessary to establish working contacts between experts in the field of certification at the level of the EU and the EAEU, as well as the expert community.

The presentation of the Task Force's position paper on certification is scheduled at a conference in Lisbon, which will be held in July 2021 as part of the Lisbon-Vladivostok initiative.



**About the Lisbon-Vladivostok Initiative:**

In 2015, an initiative was born in European business circles to promote the idea of creating a single economic space on the territory of the European Union (EU) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) - the Lisbon-Vladivostok business initiative. The foundation of the Initiative is the need of the business community for economic integration and expansion of economic interaction in the Eurasian space. The initiative already brings together more than 100 companies, as well as major business associations from 12 EU and EAEU member states. In 2020, the initiative received its organizational design in the shape of working bodies: the board and a number of expert working groups in specific areas. Events dedicated to the promotion and further promotion of the initiative are held on a regular basis. The participants in the events held within the framework of the Initiative are business leaders and owners, officials, and authoritative members of the expert community.

More information can be found on the website and social media:

<https://lisbon-vladivostok.pro>

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