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East Inform

Chambre de Commerce Belgo-Luxembourgeoise pour la Russie et la Belarus, asbl
Belgisch-Luxemburgse Kamer van Koophandel voor Rusland en Wit-Rusland, vzw

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We wish you a Happy New Year!
We wish that all your dreams come true
and the coming year bring you only happy memories!
We wish you a flourishing business, more and more
prosperous with every passing year!



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INVITATION

The Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce for Russia and Belarus
has the honor to invite you for the **YEAR OPENING COCKTAIL** on

January 27th, 2010 – 18:30

Venue: 44, Rue du Prince Albert – 1050 Brussels

(attendance is free of charge)

PROGRAMME

18.30-19.00	Registration
19.00 - 19.25	Welcome address Mr. Paul Scheynen, CCBLR Vice President H.E. Alexander Romanov , Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Belgium
19.25 – 19.45	Presentation "INGO-ONDD: a new credit insurer in Russia" Mr. Yves Windelincx , CEO, ONDD (Office National Ducroire/Delcredere)
19.45 – 20.00	Closing Overview of the activities in 2009 Introduction to the 2010 programme Dr. Werner Cautreels , President, CEO Solvay Pharmaceuticals
20.00 – 20.10	Questions & Answers
20.15 - 21.30	Networking COCKTAIL



For planning purposes please send the following registration form to

olga.bogdanova@solvay.com before January 21

Registration Form

YEAR OPENING COCKTAIL

Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce for Russia and Belarus

January 27th, 2010 – 18:30

Venue: 44, Rue du Prince Albert 1050 Brussels (Solvay)

Name and surname

Company

Telephone & Mobile

E-mail address.....

Website

I will attend the opening speech and cocktail Yes No

Any other relevant information or comments ?

.....
.....

Application form to be returned **before 21/01/2010** to olga.bogdanova@solvay.com



Alexander Romanov, New Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Belgium

Born on November 29, 1950 in Kazan, USSR.

1973 – Graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR (MGIMO University).

1973-1986 – Various posts at the Embassy of the USSR in the Republic of Niger, First African Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Embassy of the USSR in the Kingdom of Morocco.

1986-1990 – Counselor at the Secretariat of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

1990-1995 – Counselor of the Embassy of the USSR / Russian Federation in France.

1996-2001 – Head of Section, then Deputy Director of the Personnel Department of the Russian MFA.

2001-2006 – Ambassador of Russia to the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of The Gambia.

2006-2008 – Director of the Department-Secretariat (Head of Cabinet) of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

2008-2009 – Ambassador at large.

As of 2009 – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Belgium. Has a diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Has been awarded a number of Russian government decorations.

Fluent in French and Arabic.

Hobbies include literature, painting and dogs. Practices sports (football, ice hockey, swimming).

Married.





NEWS FROM RUSSIA

* Ingosstrakh ONDD Credit Insurance to start operations in Russia

Ingosstrakh ONDD Credit Insurance (INGO-ONDD) has been licensed by the Russian Insurance Surveillance Service (Rosstrakhnadzor) for insurance and re-insurance operations, and is starting its operations in Russia.

The joint company was founded in August of 2009 by the Russian insurance market leader Ingosstrakh IJSC and a Belgian public credit insurer Office National du Ducroire (ONDD). The Russian-Belgian insurer will specialize in covering credit risks for domestic and international companies operating on Russian market. ONDD's stake in the new company will be 67 %. The backbone staff in the new company will be formed by the Trade Credit Insurance Department personnel of Ingosstrakh IJSC.

ONDD Belgian public exports insurer was founded in 1939. For many decades it has specialized in insuring credit transactions all over the globe. The company does only 20 % of its business in Western European countries, with 80% of the business in other countries around the world. Along with the public agency, ONDD also includes its non-public subsidiary Delcredere NV/SA with branches in the United Kingdom, France and Germany, and a subsidiary company in Czech Republic.

Ingosstrakh IJSC management decided to create a new INGO-ONDD company based on its strategic plans for development of this business segment and increasing its Russian market stake. Ingosstrakh has accumulated vast credit insurance expertise, in Soviet times the company was a pioneer in insurance of foreign trade risks. In 1957 Ingosstrakh IJSC founded Garant Insurance in Austria which has an office operating in Switzerland.

Ingosstrakh IJSC and ONDD have successfully cooperated in the area of insurance and reinsurance of credit risks for many years. In 2006 ONDD bought a 50 % stake in Garant Insurance Company, thus for the first time forming an equal Russian-European partnership in the international credit insurance market.

Alexander Grigoriev, General Director of Ingosstrakh IJSC, said that "Ingosstrakh ONDD Credit Insurance (INGO-ONDD) operations will enable the company to reinforce its leadership in highly competitive environment in the area of credit risk insurance in the Russian and CIS markets".

According to Yves Windelinckx, CEO of ONDD, "bringing together technologies of the Belgian public agency accumulated over many years in the international market and hands-on Russian market expertise of Ingosstrakh specialists opens great prospects for successful performance of INGO-ONDD. Furthermore, Ingosstrakh has a wide Russian branch network and subsidiary companies in CIS countries, which is a great basis for further regional expansion".

Office National du Ducroire (ONDD) – National Agency for Export Credits – is a public insurance company, specializing in credit risk insurance (Belgium) with a mission to promote international economic relations. ONDD performs this task as an autonomous government institution with the state guarantee.

ONDD insures companies and banks against political and commercial risks relating to international commercial transactions, primarily in the area of capital goods and industrial projects, as well as contracted works and services. For these risks, ONDD can also work alongside banks through risk sharing schemes. ONDD also insures against political risks relating to foreign direct investments and directly finances commercial transactions of limited proportion.

Internationally, ONDD is active in several credit insurance working groups within the European Union, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as the Berne Union (International Union of Credit and Investment Insurers), of which ONDD is a member. In addition, ONDD takes part in the Paris Club talks on debt rescheduling.

Ingosstrakh IJSC (www.ingos.ru) has operated in the domestic and international market since 1947. The Company is the leader among Russian insurers in terms of the size of insurance premiums in voluntary insurance, other than life insurance.

Ingosstrakh is authorized to extend all types of insurance services (with a view to underwriting specialization) provided in Article 32.9 of the RF Law on Insurance in the Russian Federation, and reinsurance services. The company is present in 221 cities of Russia. It has six branches and nine affiliates operating in the CIS and foreign countries.



*** From January 1st 2010 the territories of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus will be united into the Integrated Customs Territory. On November 27th the 3 presidents signed the respective documents.**

Step 1

Integrated customs tariff will be put into practice which means that all the goods arriving through one of the 3 borders will be imposed the same customs tariff. Money generated out of the import tariffs will be allocated according to a proportionality factor between the countries.

Step 2

July 1 2010 all customs fees and duties will be abolished on the border between Russia and Belarus, and mid 2011 the same will happen between Russia and Kazakhstan. This means that the goods will be moving on the integrated territory freely, without additional fees or duties.

The single customs tariff implementation appears to be the most difficult – since customs duties are one of the most profitable income items in state budgets. The share of manufacturing activities in Russia and Belarus is bigger than in Kazakhstan, therefore annulations of import duties on industrial goods remain unacceptable for these two countries.

Belarus and Kazakhstan had to find a compromise with Russia on implementation of a single customs tariff, which results in 92% compliance of the single customs tariff with Russian customs duties. Consequently Belarus and Kazakhstan will have to increase tariffs for a significant part of imported goods.

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*** Maersk directs deep-sea service to shortsea destinations**

As from January the Danish shipper Maersk Line's Ecubex service between the west coast of South America and Northern Europe will be extended towards Saint Petersburg. The ice-class vessels that will be used in that context will be fitted with 600 reefer plugs, allowing the shipping company to transport a large amount of fruit without transshipment. Besides, extra sailing opportunities will be provided between the Benelux and the Baltic region.

Apart from that deep-sea service, the AE10, coming from the Far East, will soon be sailing towards Gdansk from Zeebrugge.
Maersk Benelux +32 3 2051515 belsalins@maersk.com

*** Expats Have a Hard Life, Many Friends**

Maintaining a comfortable lifestyle while working in Russia is difficult for many foreigners, but the ease of making new friends among the locals could sweeten the pill for many.

According to HSBC's expat experience report, Russia ranks two points from the bottom in terms of quality of life among the 26 countries surveyed, but it places fourth in terms of making new friends, especially among locals. The survey rated 26 countries on 25 day-to-day factors, such as accommodation, food, social life, the ease of organizing finances and accommodation.

Russia ranked 24th in terms of overall quality of life, placing dead last in terms of ease of setting up financing and enrolling children in school, and was also ranked poorly for its quality of healthcare (25) and commute (23).

Canada, Australia and Thailand placed among the top three globally, while India and Qatar trailed the rest, ranking 25th and 26th, respectively.

Russia's weak points also include a difficulty in setting up utilities (25) and finding an apartment to live in (23), but the country ranks stronger in terms of entertainment (9) and social life (7).

Russia's people, however, may be its most valuable asset, as many expats found it comparatively easier to make friends while living here.

"While making friends is easy for most expats, there is a preference for making friends within the expat community rather than the local community," the report said. "An exception to this is Brazil, which ranks highest for local community integration (94



percent of expats making local friends easily). This was closely followed by Canada and South Africa (both 91 percent), India and Russia (both 90 percent)."

While foreigners living here may be having a hard time of it, Russians working abroad are among those most likely to stay away for a long time. "The countries that produce the 'expat-lifers' include those originally from Thailand, Bahrain (81 percent), South Africa (73 percent), Russia and the United States (both 70 percent)," the report said.

HSBC issued the first survey in its series in June reporting on the economic experiences of expats. According to that report, one-third of all expats living in Russia — the highest proportion in the world — make more than \$250,000 per year, with almost half reporting an income of \$200,000 per year or more.

Almost 60 percent said they had \$4,000 or more every month in disposable income, the second-highest proportion in the world, while 70 percent earn enough to be able to employ at least one person as domestic staff, significantly higher than the global average of 48 percent.

The surveys was commissioned by HSBC Bank International and conducted by research company FreshMinds. More than 3,100 expats were questioned between February and April 2009.

Alex Anishyuk

* RIA Novosti presents the ten most significant events of 2009 in the Russian economy

AvtoVAZ: suitcase without a handle

The Russian auto industry suffered more than car manufacturers in other countries, and reduced demand for cars dealt the harshest blow at AvtoVAZ, Russia's flagship of passenger cars. According to AvtoVAZ estimates, the company's liabilities could reach 75 billion rubles (\$2.5 bln) by the end of 2009.

Russian authorities have said again and again that they will not allow the auto giant to go bankrupt, backing these statements with unprecedented state support. In spring 2009, the government allocated 25 billion rubles to AvtoVAZ, but the company quickly went through it and asked for more. The authorities called on the auto giant's shareholders, including the Renault-Nissan alliance (Renault owns 25% of AvtoVAZ – Ed.), to share the burden of responsibility, threatening to dilute their stakes otherwise.

How much will it cost to save AvtoVAZ?

AvtoVAZ's partners agreed, and a contract was signed in November to restructure the company and allocate 50 billion rubles in state support, as well as 300 million euros in the form of technology from Renault-Nissan. Job cuts had to be made because of financial problems; AvtoVAZ management estimates that approximately one-fifth of the workforce was made redundant. Around five billion rubles were allocated to keep the people employed and special terms for their employment are being established.

2009 budget: the first deficit budget in some time

In 2009, the federal budget ran at a deficit for the first time in eight years. The deficit was planned at 8.3% of GDP, and by the end of the year, the Ministry of Finance announced that the results would be better than expected, amounting to 6.9% or 7.3% of GDP accounting for quasi-fiscal measures (subordinated loans disbursed from the sovereign wealth fund).

Kremlin pool, budget deficit: how long can we hold out?

The main reason for the deficit is a sustained high level of government spending amid falling oil prices and tax revenues. Total spending in 2009 was approximately 10 trillion rubles, which included 1.1 trillion rubles in government injections into the economy, such as subsidies and state guarantees for loans, as well as contributions to the charter capital of companies fully or partially owned by the state. Financial authorities also actively contributed to liquidity – during peak demand for financing, the maximum gross amount of new lending from the Central Bank to the banking sector reached four trillion rubles. The level of social spending was unprecedented.

2009 budget: how much will be spend on national projects?

The Ministry of Finance was forced to "loosen the purse strings" on the "rainy day fund," from which around 2.7 trillion rubles were allocated to cover the budget deficit. The fund shrank to 2.2 trillion rubles by December 1. In 2010, the money will run out, said Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin.

**Ruble: volatility after devaluation**

The controlled devaluation of the ruble, which started in November 2008, finished in January. In order to maintain financial stability, the Russian Central Bank avoided landslide devaluation by gradually lowering the exchange rate. This still entailed massive losses. Russia's international reserves fell by more than 200 billion rubles (\$6.7 bln) from August 2008 to March 2009, but the time lag allowed Russians to convert their savings into hard currency.

During the controlled devaluation period, the ruble fell 35% in relation to the dollar-euro basket (0.55 of the dollar and 0.45 of the euro). As of February, amid rising oil prices and the gradual recovery of the global economy, the ruble grew again, but in the summer it fell again for a short time based on rumors of a second wave of devaluation.

Changes in exchange rates during 2008-2009

At the end of the year, real prerequisites for a new devaluation appeared – a steep rise in budgetary spending, Russian companies' increased foreign debt payments, etc. Given these conditions, the ruble fell slightly, but in the absence of serious disturbances on foreign markets, experts did not expect any sharp drops on the Russian foreign exchange market.

Opel: the deal of the year falls through

The deal to sell ailing automaker Opel, the European subsidiary of U.S. auto giant General Motors, to a consortium of the Austrian-Canadian firm Magna and Russia's Sberbank would have been one of the main events of the year – if it had actually happened. However, the event of the year was that GM unexpectedly backed out.

Negotiations on the deal started in May. There were two main contenders – the Austrian-Canadian-Russian consortium and the Belgian investment fund RHJ. The German authorities favored the consortium, which promised to minimize job cuts and proposed what was in their view an optimum development strategy for the company. GM, on its part, was afraid that its intellectual property would "fall into the hands of the Russians."

Mass protests by Opel employees in Germany

The negotiations proceeded normally, as the contenders sweetened their offers and GM vacillated. By mid-September, GM had "agreed" to a deal with the consortium, but suddenly reversed the decision in November, having decided to restructure the company with GM's own resources. The Russian side stated that it did not suffer because of this; however, it had learned an important lesson. The Russian government was subsequently forced to reconsider its development strategy for the Russian auto industry – the authorities will now court other foreign partners.

Inflation: a hair's breadth from a record

The inflation figure for the past year could beat a three-year old record (in 2006, inflation peaked at 9%), confirming the adage that the darkest hour is before dawn: prices froze because of a sharp fall in purchasing power during the crisis. The government expects a slowdown in price growth of 8.8%-9.0% in 2009.

Russia's economy to reach pre-crisis level by late 2012

Record low inflation has enabled the Bank of Russia to lower the refinancing rate nine times by a total of four percentage points to the historical minimum of 9%. The regulator does not rule out a tenth lowering of the rate in the last week of the year. Monetary authorities are not fazed that the refinancing rate could turn out to be lower than the year's inflation. They have explained that it is actually an indicator of inflationary expectations.

The Central Bank, having implemented a rather intrepid interest rate policy, is counting on an easing of lending that will stimulate economic activity and consumer demand.

ESPO: oil flows to the east

In late December, the first stage of the Eastern Siberia–Pacific Ocean oil pipeline (ESPO) will be commissioned. Transneft is already actually using this pipeline, which was built to transport Russian oil to the markets of the Asia-Pacific region.

The project will be implemented in two stages. The first stage runs from Taishet (Irkutsk Region) to Skovorodino (Amur Region). The second stage will then connect Skovorodino with the oil terminal Kozmino in Primorye. After both stages are on stream, the pipeline's capacity will be 80 million metric tons per year. Rosneft and TNK-BP will provide the pipeline's first oil consignments.



Putin launches Pacific oil pipeline

In order to stimulate development of oil fields along the pipeline route, authorities have nullified the export duty on oil from 13 Eastern Siberian fields and the nullification of the duty on five more fields is under discussion.

Superjet is ever closer to clients

Another significant event in 2009 was the public demonstration of the capabilities of the Russian short-haul airplane Sukhoi Superjet 100, developed by Sukhoi Civil Aircraft Company and Boeing. Parts are supplied by well-known Russian and foreign companies. For example, the French firm Snecma was involved in developing the plane's engines.

The Superjet 100 was unveiled in June at the Paris Le Bourget Airshow in France and in August at the MAKS 2009 Airshow in Zhukovsky. The public could not only see the plane in action but also sit in its cockpit.

The Superjet 100 is not only an impressive new product that the Russian aviation industry needs, but a commercially viable product. There are already 122 confirmed orders for this plane, including orders from the largest Russian airline Aeroflot and the Armenian company Armavia. Nevertheless, due to delays in deliveries of engines for the Superjet, companies will receive the plane no earlier than the start of the second half of 2010, experts say.

FAS puts pressure on oil companies

The Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) has been fining oil companies for years, but it set a record in fall 2009 for the number of claims. FAS demanded a total of 21 billion rubles (\$706.5 mln) in fines for fuel price gouging from Gazprom Neft, Lukoil, Rosneft and TNK-BP. Experts say that such fines are significant even for the oil companies with their sizable earnings. Furthermore, companies are forced to rectify prices in line with FAS directives. Consequently, Lukoil estimated its losses at \$100 million to \$120 million due to FAS actions. Oil companies have contested FAS decisions in court, but with varied success: Lukoil lost, but Gazprom Neft and TNK-BP were able to have some of their fines rescinded.

Both sides have had enough and sat down at the negotiating table in fall 2009 in order to come up with a formula to calculate competitive fuel prices. The sides had planned to reach an agreement on the main points by the New Year, but have so far been unable.

Trade to be cleaned up

In December, the State Duma finally passed a draft law on state regulation of commerce in the Russian Federation. The law had been languishing in development hell for several years due to disagreements among various government agencies. The law is expected to be passed before the end of the year and it will come into force on February 1, 2010.

Not only manufacturers and retailers clashed over the bill, but also various branches of federal agencies. Proponents of the bill say that strengthened state regulation will eliminate the imbalances that bring retail chains more than half of their profits. The law stipulates stiff antimonopoly measures; for example, infrastructure limitations will be imposed on companies already holding a 25% share of a local market. In a number of cases, authorities can hold down prices on food products for up to 90 days.

In turn, retail companies are criticizing a number of regulations and say the law needs to be amended. They do not rule out the risk of higher prices on food products and shrinkage of assortment of goods in Russia after the law comes into force.

Vodka mixer

The Russian alcohol market has finally made the transition from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture to the Federal Alcohol Market Regulation Service (Rosalkogolregulirovaniye), which was established at the end of 2008. In 2008, the authorities also stripped the Ministry of Agriculture of "fishing rights," putting the Federal Fishery Agency (Rosrybolovstvo) under the direct control of the government.

The Federal Alcohol Market Regulation Service's first coup was the introduction of a minimum retail price for vodka – 89 rubles (\$3) for a half-liter bottle – as of January 1, 2010. This measure is meant to decrease the circulation of illegally-produced alcohol and decrease alcohol consumption.

The service has also developed a draft concept to bring alcohol consumption down by the year 2020 and has introduced a draft law on licensing the transportation of alcohol. The service is discussing the timeframe for introducing a single excise rate on alcohol to be paid on delivery from the distiller.



NEWS FROM BELARUS

* The World Bank will increase the amount of financial assistance to Belarus from 100 to 250 million US dollars in 2010-2011

In 2010-2011 the World Bank will increase the amount of financial assistance to Belarus from 100 to 250 million US dollars which will be available on the annual basis. This decision is approved in the amended strategy of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the World Bank for 2008-2011.

According to the World Bank, such an increase will enhance the cooperation on mutually beneficial projects.

On the 3rd of December in Minsk a loan agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the World Bank was signed. According to the mentioned agreement the loan is granted for the amount of 200 million US dollars for the period of 16 years at the rate Libor plus 1%.

An agreement between Belarus and the World Bank to provide Belarus a loan of 125 million US dollars for the projects in the field of energy efficiency has been recently entered into force.

Embassy of Belarus.

* Nine new resident-companies join Minsk Free Economic Zone in 2009

In 2009 the Minsk Free Economic Zone registered nine new resident – companies including seven companies with foreign capital (Russia, Turkey, Belgium, Azerbaijan and Cyprus), BelTA learnt from deputy head of the Minsk FEZ Administration Alexander Kendysh.

The new resident – companies intend to implement projects at the amount of €300 million in the FEZ Minsk. "These are potential investments in the fixed capital for the near five-seven years," Alexander Kendysh said. The biggest project is expected to be implemented by the Belgian AOI NV Company (Antwerpse Ontwikkelings en Investeringsmaatschappij NV) which will construct a transport and logistics center in the National Airport Minsk.

Belarusian company "Gromin" has become the last one among the new resident – companies registered this year. It will produce plastic packaging for perfume and cosmetic production. The production facility is expected to be launched in the near two years.

In 2009, the Minsk Free Economic Zone registered Belarusian-Russian joint company "Techno-Express" (production of electric equipment for passenger cars), Belarusian-Cypriot joint company "Gotz Group" (production of flexible polymeric packaging), Belarusian-Turkish-Azeri joint company "Zurflex" (production of flexible feed pipes for condensed low-pressure gas and food industry).

According to the FEZ Minsk Administration, despite the global economic and financial crisis, foreign investors show their interest in the FEZ Minsk. In 2009, the Minsk Free Economic Zone attracted investments at the amount of around Br200 billion, or 25% up as against 2008. Daily, the FEZ Administration has talks with potential foreign investors. For instance, in December this year, representatives of the Iranian TFI Co visited the FEZ Minsk. The sides discussed the possibility to implement a project on construction of a plant to produce the industrial blades used in the forestry, paper making and packaging industry.

Belarus' foreign commodity trade drops 34.1% in January-November

In January-November 2009 the foreign trade in goods in Belarus made up \$44.487 billion or 65.9% as against the same period last year, BelTA learnt from the National Statistics Committee.

The export of goods dropped to \$19.06 billion (61.6% as against January-November 2008), the import \$25.427 billion (69.6%). The export indices improved compared with Q1 2009 when they made up 51.2% as against January-March 2008.

In January-November 2009 Belarus had a \$6.367 billion deficit in foreign trade. It was \$5.631 billion in the same period last year.

The trade with the CIS member states in January-November reached \$24.72 billion (64.9% as against the same period last year). Export totaled \$8.402 billion (61.7%), import - \$16.318 billion (66.7%). The trade between Belarus and Russia in January-November was down to \$21.026 billion (65.4%). Export to Russia amounted to \$6.039 billion (60.5%), import from Russia - \$14.987 billion (67.5%).



In January-November 2009, the trade between Belarus and Ukraine dropped to \$2.692 billion (57.4% as against January-November 2008). The export reached \$1.543 billion (57%), import - \$1.15 billion (58%).

Belarus' trade with non-CIS countries made up \$19.767 billion (67.3% as against January-November 2008) including export - \$10.658 billion (61.6%), import - \$9.109 billion (75.5%). The trade between Belarus and Germany made up \$2.812 billion, or 85.6% as against the same period last year. At the same time, the Belarusian export to Germany increased by 12.4% to \$0.863 billion, import reduced by 22.6% to \$1.949 billion.

* Belarus' High-Tech Park sets up 80 companies

The number of resident-companies of the Belarusian High-Tech Park has reached 80, HTP Director Valery Tsepkalo told reporters in Minsk on 28 December.

"We have registered two new companies. So, by the end of 2009 the number of the resident-companies reached 80," Valery Tsepkalo said. According to him, despite the global financial and economic crisis, the Belarusian IT area has been developing successfully.

Valery Tsepkalo noted that the crisis year has become successful for the High-Tech Park as due to the economic crisis the HTP companies have got several contracts. During the crisis, many western European and American companies have relocated their non-core businesses outside of their countries. This is why we have concluded new contracts, got into the markets of China, Singapore and other countries, the HTP Director noted.

Valery Tsepkalo is sure that 2010 will be successful for the High-Tech Park. "If we have managed to hold our positions this year we will be able to do it next year as well," he underscored.

* Belarus' business community welcomes further economic liberalization

Belarusian business community welcomes the plans of the Economy Ministry on the further liberalization of price formation, Vladimir Karyagin, chairman of the Minsk capital association of entrepreneurs and employers, told reporters on 24 December.

The liberalization of price formation was one of the most pressing questions of 2009, according to Vladimir Karyagin. The government made concrete steps towards the liberalization and carried out its first stage. "The business community welcomes the promise of the Economy Minister to continue the liberalization in 2010," Vladimir Karyagin said.

According to him, despite the fears, the prices have not skyrocketed. On the contrary, concrete steps have been made to promote competitive environment on the domestic market. "The first stage of liberalization has been carried out. Have the prices skyrocketed by 200%? No. And if the state price adjustment had not been abolished, the prices would have been higher by 3% or 4%. We have already witnessed such situation, when better competitiveness kept prices down. We need to aim for the complete liberalization of price formation next year, and free the economy from needless paperwork," said Vladimir Karyagin.

Apart from the reforms in price formation, it is necessary to create an antimonopoly agency in Belarus, Vladimir Karyagin believes. Such an agency already exists at the Economy Ministry. "But it employs five people only, and the Ministry is overloaded." According to Vladimir Karyagin, an antimonopoly agency should not be subordinate to any ministry and should be capable to analyze the market price changes and take real control over the situation.

BelTA



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2. Health camp «Salut».
3. Sport centre (for 600 people)
4. Hotel (10 rooms).

http://www.stanok-mte.ru:80/index_en.php

More details in Belgium:

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- OAO "Slyuda" (mica)

The member organization of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Nizhniy Novgorod OAO "Slyuda" was founded on 20th November in 1992 on the basis of Filinskaya mica factory.

OAO "Slyuda" is a unique plant for the district and the region and for whole Russia as well.

We have been dealing with processing of mineral – mica since 1999. Intensive development of new kinds of goods has allowed the staff of the plant to realign its production. The goods on the basis of micaceous stuff have found a wide application in electrothermics as a heater of a different function. The output volume of these goods is making more than one half of commodity output now. The whole production of the plant is certificated and has conformation certificates.

In 2006 at the conference "Innovation of Nizhniy Novgorod citizens to their region" one of the industrial parks offered OAO "Slyuda" to develop a new procedure of foam-ceramic filters production (FCF) for metal, ultra strong cast iron, aluminum refinement from mechanical impurities.

We have several consumers – metallurgical works and mica goods producers. After market research we have recently found out that they use FCF in their procedure to reduce casts waste and to get metal of higher quality. In fact these filters are not produced in Russia and are purchased abroad by a dealers' network.

During this time together with scientists of metallurgical department of Nizhniy Novgorod State Polytechnic University, who have inventions in this field we have developed manufacturing technique of foam-ceramic filters with application of new components and adjustment of production modes. At our plant a new line was built for production of FCF. Necessary equipment and accessories were purchased and made. It should be noted that production is expensive and energy-intensive. The line productivity is 30,000 pieces per month. The main consumer is Yaroslavl motor plant. The number of potential consumers is huge. Particularly only metallurgical production of GAZ purchases and uses German filters of the firm "DRACHE" in quantity of 350,000 pieces a month. Russian metallurgical works purchase filters of other foreign companies: "Lanik" (the Czech Republic), "Selee" (the



USA), "Fondermat" (Italy) and others as well. Of course, our consumers are not content with our volume of production. There are test certificates and documentation.

In February 2009 the governor of Nizhniy Novgorod region Mr. Shantsev V.P. visited OAO "Slyuda" and a new production. He guaranteed support to the plant and charged the industry minister with investment support in the form of long term credits.

At the moment a pilot production of FCF is organized at the plant. In consideration of absence of equipment and developers for lot and mass production in Russia it is necessary to apply to experience of foreign companies.

On the ground of premises we ask you to render assistance in establishment of contacts with potential partners and to advise variants and forms of collaboration (joint-ventures or purchase of processing line for organization of manufacturing technique of foam-ceramic filters production). OAO "Slyuda" has unfortunately no experience in this direction.

Our contacts: General director of OAO "Slyuda" Lipov Evgeniy Petrovich.
Russia, 606162, Nizhegorodskaya oblast, Vachiskiy raion, selo Filinskoye.
Tel/fax: +7 83173 72 244, 72 678. E-mail: sluda@list.ru

◆ EXHIBITIONS / CONFERENCES / FORUM :

<http://www.expocentr.ru/en/exhibitions/list/> (Moscow)

<http://eng.uv2000.ru/vys/> (Ekaterinbourg)

<http://www.lenexpo.net/a0/en/index.shtml> (Saint Petersburg)

<http://eng.expoperm.ru/calendar> (Perm)

<http://www.expokazan.ru/eng> (Kazan)

<http://volgogradexpo.ru/501/> (Volgograd)

http://www.yarmarka.ru/exhibitions/index.phtml?208&doc_id=3275 (Nizhnyi Novgorod)

<http://expo.sofit.ru/exhibitions/index.php?year=2010> (Saratov)

◆ JOBS :

SHKURKINA Anna

Job-seeker for a position of a contracts engineer/administrator. I've got experience in oil & gas and engineering fields, construction. Russian is native, English is fluent. Open for suggestions and other opportunities. References are available upon request.

Tel.: +31 (0) 23543 2148 anna.shkurkina@fluor.com

MELNIKOVA Elena

Education: MA in International Economics and Globalization (Pierre Mendès France University, France), MA in Economic and Legal Affairs (St-Petersburg State University, Russia)

Work Experience: 4 years of combined experience in **Marketing** (International Marketing Center, Russia); **International Relations and Economic Cooperation** (State Institution «Presidential Program», Russia; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland); **Venture Investments & Internet** (Mangrove Capital Partners, Luxembourg).

Languages: Russian (mother tongue), French (bilingual), English (fluent).

Desired positions: Project Analyst, Russian Customer Relations Assistant, Marketing or Communications Assistant, Events' Organizer, Export/Import Assistant.

Contact: melnikova2007@gmail.com, +352691216533, +79219105215.

LATYCHEVA Ekaterina

Looking for a full-time position in Belgium to use and develop my current skills.

Education: 2002-2007 Specialist degree in the Russian State University of Trade and Economy (Diploma "ECONIMIST"), Faculty of the international trade and economy; 2005 The Institut de Touraine (France)

Experience: Assistant of Director of Business Councils Departement of the CHAMBER of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (since august 2008), Manager's assistant of the incoming in the tourist company "PAC GROUP" (2007)

Languages: French (fluent), Russian (mother tongue), English (intermediate), Spanish (basic)

Qualities: Responsibility, sociability, attentiveness, initiative, aspiration for professional perfection. My CV in French or in Russian is available upon request.

Contact: + 7 916 657 94 83 (GSM), e-mail: katerina-lat@hotmail.com



POLETAEVA Ekaterina

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(+32-485) 341344 email : roverkatia@gmail.com

CHITOVA Irina

Graduated from the University of Tver in Russia (faculty of French and English languages) I am looking for a position in Belgium that will allow me to use my language and administrative skills and acquire new abilities to contribute effectively to the development of an organization.

Experience: Assistant to the General Manager in Belgian Aviation Company, over 5 years; sworn translator attached to several Tribunals, since 2000; translator of the Community Assistance program implemented under acronym TACIS, on behalf of the European Commission

Languages: Russian (mother tongue), French (excellent), English (good)

IT tools: good knowledge of MS Office

Personal features: well organized and flexible, open minded and highly adaptable, confident and reliable, patient and always willing to learn.

For further information you can reach me at +32 488/690700 or at irinachitova@yahoo.fr

COQUELLE Maria

Looking for **an internship** or a full-time position in the sector of translation or interpreting from April 2010.

Education : Master degree in Specialized Translation (Université Lille3, France)

Master degree in teaching (Kazan State Pedagogical University, Russia)

Work experience : Translator, interpreter in specialized domains (2006-2008). French teacher, high school (2006-2008)

Languages : Russian (native speaker), French (fluent), English (fluent)

Good computer skills

Contact: Telephone: +33 (0)637485640 and Email: maria.coquelle@gmail.com

DZUYBA Alexandre

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RUCHKINA Olga

Recent MBA Graduate in International Business Management (United Business Institutes, Belgium), with undergraduate degree in Business and Financial Economics (National Economy Academy, Ukraine), excellent multilingual communicator with a can-do attitude to work I am looking for a career expansion opportunity within an international organization focused on Russia and CIS markets. I have 6 years of combined experience working in Market Research, Office Management, Marketing, BD and Sales. I seek to use and develop my current skills through the employment and professional training opportunities.

Languages: Russian, Ukrainian – mother tongues, English – fluent,

German, French - intermediate, Dutch – basic.

CV available upon request. Contacts: +32(0)488 581541, Email:olgaruchkina@gmail.com

BARALDI Monica

Looking for a job as a translator and liaison interpreter.

Education: MA in Literary Translation - English and Russian (2009); BA in Translation and Interpreting (2006) at the University of Bologna (Forlì, Italy). Erasmus Mundus in Moscow, Russia (6 months, 2009); Erasmus in Exeter, UK (9 months, 2008); semester abroad in Moscow (2006).

Work Experience: translator and interpreter at International Exhibitions in Italy, among others I translated a project for Ceramic Tiles Industry from Italian into English.

Languages: Italian (mother tongue), proficient in English and Russian, good level of French.

Contacts: baraldimo@gmail.com; Belgian mobile: +320487424564.

VLADIMIROVA Ekaterina

I apply for a job or an internship in the sector of international commerce in Luxembourg or Belgium from January 2010. I'm graduating at the University of Verona, the Faculty of Foreign Languages, International Commerce and Tourism. I'm concluding my degree work. I speak Russian, Italian, English, German excellent and French good. I took an internship in the commercial department of Quarella Joint-stock Company in Verona and until December I'm going to take another internship in the commercial department of BWM Joint-stock Company in Leinfelden (Stuttgart, Germany).

I got my first degree at the International Academy of Tourism in Moscow, the Faculty of Management in Tourism. 5-year job experience in Tourism as a sales manager and a representative of Tour Operator Ascent-Travel at ski and sea resorts in Italy. Good computer skills. Italian driver licence.

e-mail: lavoro_kate@yahoo.it phone: +393470197753 (It), +49-15784933972 (Ger)

KOZACHEK Zakhar

Education: 2008-2009 Master in Management (UCL); 2006-2008 DEA in theology (UCL)

Languages knowledge: Russian, French (fluent); English (intermediate level).

IT-Tools: Very good knowledge of MS Office, basic knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and SAP.

Professional experience:

July – August 2005: Sales training in insurance company (Allianz);

June – December 2003: Day-to-day management of a bookstore (Nizhniy Novgorod).

E-mail: zakharkozachek@hotmail.com GSM: 0486/17 63 03

SHADRIKOVA Arina

looking for a position in the sphere of International relations, cultural or educational exchanges. Specialist in the Regional studies (Europe), graduated in 2005 at the Tver State University (Russia), the Faculty of management and sociology. PhD program in Political Sciences at the State University – Higher School of Economics (2009). 1 year as Researcher at the Chaire Inbev-Baillet Latour "Union européenne et Russie" at Catholic University of Louvain. Researcher on various aspects of global governance and international multilateral institutions activities. Author of series of articles on this topic as well as on the role of the civil society organizations in political development. Languages: Russian, English, German, French. Contact 0473 39 01 22 (Belgium) or +7 926 452 04 63 (Russia) e-mail: sarina_2003@list.ru

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For further information, you can contact us by the following coordinates : dominique@rexaexport.com, tel.: 0032/484079340, address : Vorstlaan 156, 1160 Brussels or through our website : www.rexaexport.com.





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