

April
2007

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

Avenue Louise,
500 Louisaan, 500
B - 1050
Bruxelles-Brussel

GSM: +32 473 94 86 55
Fax: +32 2 353 13 11
E-mail: a.arianoff@ccblr.org
http://www.ccblr.org

Chamber certified CCI Belgium

For the activities and the conferences,
please open our site www.ccblr.org

Mission to Ural: EKATERINBURG and TYUMEN (17 – 23 of June 2007)

Table of contents

Mission to Ural: EKATERINBURG and TYUMEN.....	1
Mission économique à Saint-Petersbourg	6
News from Russia	9
News from Belarus	12
50 Years of the European Integration and Russia	15
The impact of gas and oil price increase on the Belarusian economy in 2007	17
Moscow is no longer Kazakhstan's only friend ...	18
De lessen van Sakhalin – 2	19
Petites annonces / kleine aankondigingen	21
De Russische taal wedstrijd in het Russisch Wetenschappelijk en Cultureel Centrum te Brussel / Concours de la langue russe au Centre culturel et scientifique de Russie à Bruxelles.....	22
Request for membership ..	23
Composition & fonctionnement / samenstelling & taakverdeling	24



**DO NOT MISS this REAL OPPORTUNITY
TO DO a VERY PROFITABLE BUSINESS
and find a good partner in RUSSIA**



Coming back from a one week pre-mission in **Yekaterinburg** (the "Queen" of metallurgy) **and Tyumen** (The "Queen" of Oil and Gas and major growth in Russia), we inform you that we have been particularly well received by the administrations of both Regions who have brought us their full support and committed to bring to every participant of **the B2B meetings between 8 to 10 interested Russian partners**, in particular in the following sectors of activity for which they very insist that the Belgian and Luxembourg participants should come as many as possible:

The Ministry confirm us that the most attractive sectors for investment are: Oil refining and gas processing, oil production, renovation of the material for oil and gas, machinery equipment, construction and material for building, wood, petrochemical sector, ecologia, medical instruments, trade, Machine building industry, energy effective technologies, environment protection technologies, renovation of Oil and gas material, high added-value technologies in the material transformation sector, assistance to local organisations for developing their export capabilities, hotel, exhibition complex and logistic centres construction projects, light industry (including plastics and wood objects production), cars, computers, office equipment assembly, "Rotschino" airport development, shipbuilding and ship transport development projects; fish farms and fish industry. Regarding the fantastic growth of the Ural Region, the administration insist also on the problem of Energy delivery and telecommunications.

We underline the fact that 4 sectors are even more supported by the Russian Federation Government i.e. the "national projects" defined by President Putin : Building, agriculture (including breeding and equipment), medicine, and education.

For those who would invest in their Region, they promised to bring actual **facilities**, like **fiscal advantages, access to property, etc.**

In addition, a 2nd day will be organized within the common program in both cities to visit industrial sites and factories like e.g. TNK-BP, Schlumberger, Bentec Drilling, KCA Deutag, Lukoil, Messa Imalag, University of Oil & Gaz (1957-2007) or various Metallurgic sites, etc...



We insist on this unique opportunity as we have rarely seen as much dynamism and willingness to assist foreign investors and sellers.

As a result, we have decided to organise a business mission. Business to business contacts with visits to the industrial sites will be organized, as well as cultural and tourist activities. **The Belgian and the Luxembourg 's Ambassadors will take part in the business trip. We have received the support of the Russian Embassy in Brussels, the Commercial Representation of Russia (Belgium-Luxembourg), the Ministry of Trade and foreign Economic Cooperation of the Sverdlovsk and Tyumen Regions, the Ural's and Tyumen's Chambers of Commerce and Industry and with financing possibilities by the Belgian Regions.**



We wait your registration and individual request before the 1st of MAY.

Programme draft of the URAL mission

Sunday, 17 June, 2007

- 9: 00 Check-in at Brussels National
- 10.25 Departure from Brussels-National, SNBA flight to Moscow
- 15:55 Arrival at Moscow (Domodedovo airport)
- 16.00 Check-in
- 17:45 Departure with flight Ural Airlines for Ekateriburg
- 21:55 Arrival at Ekaterinbourg airport. Transfer to: **VOZNESSENSKY Hotel******
Local time: Moscow + 2 hours.(Brussels: + 4 hours)

Monday, 18 June, 2007

- 8:00 to 9:00 Breakfast and departure in bus to Zemnyi Sad
- 9h30-12h30 Reception by the Premier Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs and Foreign Relations of the Sverdlovsk region. Presentation of the Region Beginning of the B2B meetings.
- 12:45 Lunch offered by CCBLR
- 15:00-18:00 Business to Business ("B2B") meetings or excursion (cultural program), or visit to the technological Park
The ambassadors of Belgium and Luxemburg have a separate programme (reception by the Governor, Mister Rossel, visit to the rector of the university, museum)
- 19:00 Cocktail and walking lunch offered by CCBLR, do not forget transmit the invitation card to your Russian partners - location: Zemnyi Sad
- near 21:30 Back to the hotel

Tuesday, 19 June, 2007

- 9:00 After the Breakfast, individual contacts with the Russian enterprises and visits of different industrial sites of the companies from the economic sector you will have chosen.
Or: Round trip through the city for those who wish.
- Evening: free time

Wednesday, 20 June, 2007

- Near 9.30 Departure by bus ("West European standard" with air conditioning, toilets, etc...) to the city of Tyumen: 350 KM.
- Near 13:30 Installation hotel (with all European standard comfort)
TYUMEN Hotel****
- Near 14.00 Lunch offered by CCBLR
- Near 15.30 Cultural program
- Reception of the Belgian and Luxembourg ambassadors by the Governor
- Evening : to be confirmed

Thursday, 21 June, 2007

- 9:30 Reception by the Region authorities (Ministry of Economy, Investment policy and support for Enterprises), companies contacts with Russian enterprises and factories (companies). Near **100 Russians companies will be present for the B2B**. Reception by the chief of department responsible for the plot lands.
- 19:00 Cocktail - walking lunch offered by the CCBLR and The Ministry of Economy in the premises of the Tyumen**** Hotel. Your friends or partners are welcome. The Administration and near 100 Russian companies will assist.



Friday, 22 June, 2007

- 9:00 Departure in 3 Mini buses: Visits of industrial site according to your choice (with the assistance of our Chamber)
- 16.30 Return to the Hotel
- 18:00 Debriefing, free evening

Saturday, 23 June, 2007

- 6:30 After the breakfast, departure from Hotel to Rotschino airport
- 7:50 Departure of UTAIR flight to Domodedovo airport in Moscow
- 8:25 Arrival in Moscow.
- 9::00 Visit of Moscow City
- 14:00 Departure to Domodedovo airport
- 15.30 Registration
- 16.35 Flight to Brussels, arrival 18.25



We will propose you, if any, cultural activities for your free evenings.

Financing possibilities by the Belgian Regions

Yes, I will participate at the mission URAL in June 2007

Company:

Address :

.....

Name and first name :

Fonction :

Phone number :

Mobile :

E-mail :

Website :

Activity :

**I pay my participation of Euros on the CCBLR account: 210-0559990-61
IBAN: BE622100559990-61 - BIC: GEBABEBB**

- The cost from and to Moscow will be € 2,450 (**€2,200 for members**) including Yekaterinburg-Tyumen air-conditioned + toilets bus, Yekaterinburg and Tyumen buses, the transfers to the hotels, the hotel rooms (6 nights : PARK INN ****Hotel in Yekaterinburg, Tyumen****Hotel in Tyumen, breakfast included), 2 lunches, 2 receptions with invitation of your Russian's colleges, the meetings B2B, support, translators, renting of locals, visit of manufactories, is to be paid on CCBLR account
- The aircraft tickets Brussels-Moscow and Moscow-Brussels,the flight Moscow-Ekaterinburg and the Flight Tyumen-Moscow (**price +- 950€**, taxes and handling fee included, to be confirmed) has to be ordered and paid directly to the travel agency RTA (Russian Travel Agency, 1 rue du Gentilhomme, 1000 Brussels, tel: 02 502 44 40, fax: 502 79 13, email: rts.alain@skynet.be) who has taken an option for 20 places.
- The other lunches, dinners and costs for the visa are not included. If needed, the visa formalities can be made either directly with the consulate, or with the assistance of RTA (with which our members enjoy a special price, please refer to our Chamber).

*Your counterpart from CCBLR staff will be Arkady Arianoff and Daniel Stevens. They are ready and willing to provide you with all information. Please send an e-mail together to dstevensric@skynet.be, arkarian@yahoo.fr, ccblr@belgacom.net,
gsm: +32 473 94 86 55, fax: +32 2 353 13 11*

We are waiting for your registration and individual request before the 1st of MAY

TYUMEN, (see also more informations in our web site "activities "Mission Ural")

Resources

Tyumen Region is rightly known as the "energy center of Russia" because of its huge hydrocarbon resources. A major part of the country's oil and gas reserves are concentrated here.

In addition to oil and gas, the region produces peat, sapropel (aquatic ooze), quartz sand, brick and ceramic clays, limestone, and building stone. Nearly 400 deposits of raw stock for manufacturing building materials have been identified and explored to various extents.

Economy

Tyumen Region ranks first in Russia in industrial output. The oil and gas industry is the foundation of the regional economy, accounting for 87% of the region's industrial output. The region produces a large part of the country's oil, gas, and gas condensate.

The chemical and petrochemical industries produce butadiene, synthetic resins, plastics, polyethylene tubing, and polymer film. Nearly one-third of the country's liquefied household gas is produced in the region. An industrial complex for producing vehicle fuel is developing.

Engineering plants manufacture such in-demand products as oilfield, drilling, exploration, and oil refining equipment; tractor trailers; woodworking machinery; concrete mixers; storage batteries; automatic devices; medical equipment and spare parts; medical needles; and single-use syringes.

The building material industry manufactures precast reinforced concrete structures and components, elements for large-panel housing construction, bricks, building blocks, environmentally friendly insulating materials, ceramic roof tiles, and facing tiles.

The forest and woodworking industries play an important role in the region's development. Companies in this sector manufacture a wide range of furniture; chipboard; plywood; wooden houses; heat insulation, finishing, and other materials; and woodwork. Socially oriented sectors are represented by the light and food industries. Light industry manufactures woolen fabrics, yarn, fur items, fishing nets, leather and felt footwear, and clothing. The food industry produces a wide assortment of meat, fish, and dairy products; bread, baked goods, and confectionery; canned foods; and other food products.

Tyumen Region is among the regions with the highest level of investment activity and is in a leading position in Russia in terms of fixed capital investments. The largest volume of fixed capital investments is directed to industry and transport.

The region is also a promising location for profitable investment of foreign capital.

Business cooperation is being carried out with partner companies and organizations in 87 countries, including the United States, Great Britain, and Cyprus. The most attractive sectors for investment are oil refining and gas processing, oil production, machinery equipment, wood, construction and material for building, petrochemical sector, ecologia, medical instruments and trade.

Tyumen Region is one of three leading regions in foreign trade turnover, which amounted to 13% of Russia's total foreign trade turnover.

Foreign trade operations are carried out with companies in many countries.

EKATERINBURG

Resources

Region has reserves of iron, copper, nickel, and manganese ores, bauxite, fluxing agents, coal, and peat used in the metallurgical and power industries. Raw material resources for the construction industry, e.g., asbestos, kaolin and brick clays, building sand, marble, and talc, completely satisfy the region's requirements and are supplied to neighboring regions.

There are 24 explored iron ore deposits in Sverdlovsk Region with proven reserves of 7.9 The region's oil and gas fields are located in the southwest and northeast. They were explored nearly 30 years ago. Specialists estimate their reserves at 240 million tons of oil and 390 billion m³ of gas.



Forests cover 12.6 million hectares, or 65.6% of the region's territory; coniferous forests make up 63.5% of the forested area. Logging has been going on here for more than 300 years, and the southern and central districts are into their fourth cutting cycle.. Therefore, mature timber reserves have decreased from 877 to 600 million m³ over the past 20 years. Actual reserves suitable for industrial use are estimated at 290-310 million m³.

Economy

The region ranks 2nd and 3rd among other Russian republics and regions in industrial output, availability of fixed capital assets, and number of industrial production personnel. The leading economic sectors are heavy, power, and transport engineering. More than 70% of all facilities in the heavy and electrical engineering sectors are concentrated in Ekaterinburg. The fuel and energy complex plays a crucial role in ensuring stable operation of the region's businesses. Power producers include large and small electric power plants, thermal power plants, and the Beloyarsk Nuclear Power Plant.



Foreign economic ties are strengthening. During the time of the economic crisis and production slumps, foreign trade was the one sector that showed significant growth. Exports surpass imports, and foreign trade turnover is steadily increasing. The primary export items are ferrous and nonferrous metals and petrochemical products. Sverdlovsk Region has high investment potential and substantial financial resources consisting of company funds and budgetary and extrabudgetary funds. The region ranks 7th in Russia in the number of banks and branches.

Sverdlovsk Region's mining and metallurgical complex is made up of 50 integrated plants, factories, repair companies, and more than ten research and design institutes. Mining and metallurgy account for nearly half of all industrial output. Companies in the ferrous metallurgy sector produce metal for railway transport and the transport engineering industry (rails, coach wheels, axles, wheel rims, and locomotives) and structural bars, including H-girders and other shaped products made of carbon and alloy steels.

Three large plants in the region manufacture hot- and cold-rolled welded metal pipe, oxygen cylinders, and cast iron pipe.

Unique precision alloys in the form of strips and wire are produced for the electronics industry, and cold-rolled magnetic sheets are manufactured for the power industry.

The nonferrous metallurgy industry produces blister and refined copper. Six large aluminum companies produce 53% of all Russian alumina, 15% of all rolled aluminum, about 10% of all primary aluminum, and a major portion of the aluminum foil and fluoride salts.

There is also large-scale production of rolled titanium, which is used in aircraft construction.

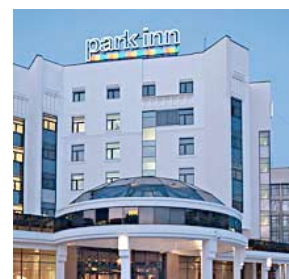
The mining and metallurgical complex exports more than 30% of its production.

The construction industry complex in Sverdlovsk Region has facilities to produce 1.25 million tons of asbestos, 5.8 million tons of cement, 3.0 million m³ of precast reinforced concrete structures, and about 750 building bricks. The product range also includes crushed rock, roofing slate, asbestos cement pipes and unions, window glass, linoleum, construction lime, and other building materials.

The forest and chemical industry complex of the Central Urals is one of the region's leaders in industrial potential. The forest utilization rate is 22.2 million m³ per year out of useful mature and overmature timber reserves of 657.5 million m³. The Central Urals produce 5.7% of the commercial timber in Russia, 6.2% of the lumber, 6.7% of the plywood, 4.8% of the chipboard and fiberboard, and 0.9% of the paper.

Production of synthetic resins, plastics, general rubber and asbestos goods, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals is also well developed in the region.

The industry manufactures a wide range of engineering products, such as equipment for the chemical, oil, metallurgical, and electrical industries; excavators with various bucket capacities; steam and gas turbines; farm machinery; railway freight cars; diesel engines and generators; trucks; press-forging machines; metal-cutting and woodworking machine tools; continuous billet casting machines; blast furnace, steel smelting, and rolling equipment; motorcycles; and electronics. (*Kommersant & AA*)



Mission économique

Mission économique à Saint-Pétersbourg 20 – 23 septembre 2007

Nous avons le plaisir de vous informer par la présente que, dans le cadre de la Convention signée entre la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale et la Communauté des Entreprises du Port de Bruxelles, nous sommes chargés d'organiser une **mission économique à Saint-Pétersbourg du 20 au 23 septembre 2007**.

Stimuler les relations commerciales entre nos entreprises bruxelloises et les entreprises locales notamment via les deux ports, est l'objectif principal de cette mission, autour duquel graviteront des contacts officiels avec entre autres la Chambre de Commerce de Saint-Pétersbourg, les autorités politiques locales, etc...

En attendant l'élaboration du programme, nous pouvons d'ores et déjà vous annoncer que sont prévus : une visite des installations portuaires de Saint-Pétersbourg avec un accent particulier pour les secteurs du bois et de la métallurgie, des contacts d'affaires avec les entreprises locales, des rencontres avec la Municipalité de Saint-Pétersbourg, de sa Chambre de Commerce et enfin un volet culturel.

Avec le soutien de :

Soutenus dans l'organisation de cette mission par la Chambre de Commerce Belgo-Luxembourgeoise pour la Russie, le Port de Bruxelles, et l'attaché commercial en poste à Saint-Pétersbourg, il nous semble important, pour pouvoir avancer dans la préparation, d'avoir, de votre part, un accord de principe quant à votre participation et de connaître vos attentes ainsi que les secteurs ou entreprises que vous souhaiteriez approcher plus particulièrement. A cet effet, nous vous remercions d'avance de bien vouloir nous renvoyer le document que vous trouverez ci-dessous.



En restant à votre entière disposition pour de plus amples informations, nous vous prions de croire, à l'expression de nos sentiments les meilleurs.



Pour le Président
Y. HUYGHEBAERT

E. BOUCLIS
Secrétaire Permanente

La Communauté des Entreprises du Port de Bruxelles est chargée par la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, représentée ici par la Secrétaire d'Etat en charge du Port de Bruxelles, Brigitte Grouwels, d'organiser une **mission économique à Saint-Pétersbourg** afin de stimuler les relations commerciales entre les entreprises bruxelloises et les entreprises locales notamment via les deux ports, en développant une ligne Short Sea Shipping entre le Port de Bruxelles et le Port de Saint-Pétersbourg.

Nous vous invitons à prendre contact avec le secrétariat de la **Communauté des Entreprises du Port de Bruxelles**.
104-106 Avenue du Port bte 12 - 1000 Bruxelles
Tél : 02/426.72.88 - Fax : 02/426.25.19
E-mail : c.e.p.b@skynet.be

20-23 septembre 2007

Mission économique

PROGRAMME PROVISOIRE

Jeudi 20 septembre

Arrivée à Saint-Pétersbourg à 14h45
 Transfert en car et check in à l'Hôtel Renaissance ****
 Briefing avec l'Attaché Commercial
 Une réception officielle est prévue avec, entre autres, les autorités locales, les représentants du Port de Saint-Pétersbourg et la Chambre de Commerce

Vendredi 21 septembre

Visite du Port de Saint-Pétersbourg et de ses installations
 Projets de développement du Port de Saint-Pétersbourg
 Contacts avec les autorités portuaires et autres
 Contacts d'affaires entre les entreprises bruxelloises et russes

Samedi 22 septembre

Visite plus large de la voie d'eau, sous l'angle entre autres de l'intégration urbaine
 Contacts d'affaires
 Visite culturelle

Dimanche 23 septembre

Derniers contacts et visites
 Départ de Saint-Pétersbourg à 15h30
 Arrivée à 18h30 à Bruxelles

La CEPB a décidé de travailler avec l'agence RTA (Russian Travel Agency). Pour plus d'informations sur le vol et l'hébergement, nous vous remercions de contacter Monsieur Alain Caris au n° de tél 02/502.44.40 ou par e-mail à l'adresse rts.alain@skynet.be

FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION à renvoyer au PLUS TARD le 20 avril 2007 au secrétariat de la CEPB

Fax : n° 02/426.25.19

NOM(S) :

PRENOM(S) :

FONCTION :

SOCIETE :

ADRESSE :

CODE POSTAL : LOCALITE :

TEL : FAX :

GSM :

E Mail :

Site internet : www.

- Je participe à la mission économique à Saint-Pétersbourg 20-23 septembre 2007
- Je serai **seul(e) – accompagné(e)** d'une personne (soulignez votre choix)
- Je loge à l'hôtel La Renaissance : en **single – double** (soulignez votre choix)

Les frais relatifs au vol A/R et à l'hébergement (3 nuitées à l'Hôtel Renaissance en chambre luxe) seront directement réglés auprès de l'agence RTA qui vous adressera une facture détaillée, dès réception de votre bon d'inscription.

Les frais s'élèveront à : 1.330,53 € / 1 pers / single + 15 € de frais de réservation hôtelière
 1.881,06 € / 2 pers / double + 15 € de frais de réservation hôtelière

20-23 septembre 2007



Mission économique

En guise de confirmation de votre inscription, nous vous remercions de verser la somme de 200 €/personne qui couvrira les frais d'organisation des rencontres d'affaires, quelques repas et transferts, les frais de traduction, etc ... sur le compte ouvert à la **CBC Banque n° 732-0145929-92 avec en communication : nom du ou des participants + société**

Les incitants financiers à l'exportation que Bruxelles Export propose, peuvent soutenir vos efforts de prospection commerciale dans le cadre de cette mission économique, pour autant bien sûr que les conditions d'éligibilité soient respectées et sous réserve que l'analyse du dossier laisse entrevoir des retombées économiques suffisantes. Vous pouvez prendre connaissance des délais d'introduction, ainsi que des modalités d'intervention, sur le site internet (www.bruxelles-export.be, rubrique « Aides à l'export ») ou auprès de Mme. Christine Lenneberg (Tél : 02 800 40 40, mail : clenneberg@mrbc.irisnet.be).

POUR L'ORGANISATION DE VOTRE PROGRAMME INDIVIDUEL, NOUS VOUS INVITONS A NOUS COMMUNIQUER LES INFORMATIONS SUIVANTES :

NOM DE LA SOCIÉTÉ :

DESCRIPTION DE L'ACTIVITE :

.....
.....
.....
.....

- J'ai des relations d'**import – export** avec la Russie (soulignez votre choix) OUI-NON

Si oui, quels types de marchandises ?

.....

- Envisagez-vous d'utiliser la voie d'eau dans vos futurs échanges avec la Russie ? OUI-NON

- Avez-vous des contacts commerciaux avec la Russie et Saint-Pétersbourg en particulier ? OUI-NON

Si oui, dans quels secteurs d'activités ?

.....

CONTACTS INDIVIDUELS SOUHAITES

Décrivez le profil des contacts que vous souhaitez (nouveaux contacts ou sociétés/personnes précises) :

.....
.....
.....
.....



NEWS FROM RUSSIA

* TNK-BP to bid for Rosneft stock

A few hours before the deadline for acceptance of bids, there are two bidders for the YUKOS bankruptcy auction to sell a 9.44 percent stake in state-owned oil company Rosneft: RN Razvitiye, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rosneft, and Samotlorneftegaz, a subsidiary of TNK-BP.

Alexander Shadrin, a spokesman for the Russian-British TNK-BP, told RBC that Samotlorneftegaz would bid in the auction. If it wins, the company will finance the acquisition of the 9.44 percent stake from three sources: the funds of the main shareholders, equity capital and loans.

As for Rosneft, it has formally announced its intention to bid in the auction on 20 March 2007. The Board of Directors approved plans to borrow \$22 billion to pay for the acquisition. Rosneft will borrow up to \$13 billion, and RN-Razvitiye will borrow another \$9 billion.

This will be the first of YUKOS bankruptcy auctions. The Russian Federal Property Fund began accepting bids on 26 February 2007. The first lot includes 1 billion ordinary shares in Rosneft (9.44 percent) and promissory notes of YUKOS's subsidiary Yuganskneftegaz worth a total of RUR 3.56 billion (approx. \$137m). The starting price was set at RUR 195,500,245,514 (approx. \$7.5bn). Bid increment is RUR 260 million (approx. \$10m).RBC

* ST. PETERSBURG, April 2 (RIA Novosti) - **General Motors has decided to invest \$300 million** in a new car assembly plant near St. Petersburg, the city's economics, industrial policy and trade committee said Monday.

The construction of the GM plant was launched in Shushary, on the outskirts of Russia's second city, in June 2006. The plant is due to reach its full capacity in 2008, when the assembly of the Chevrolet Captiva and other cars will be launched. Earlier, GM said it would invest \$115 million in the plant, which was initially set to produce 25,000 cars a year.

On March 29, GM Europe President, Carl-Peter Forster, announced that his company would more than double the originally planned capacity of the Shushary plant to 70,000, GM said in a press release.

"Russia is our biggest market for Chevrolet in Europe," said Forster. "Demand continues to grow, and we will be in an even better position to meet that demand when Shushary goes on stream in 2008."

In 2006, GM sold more than 132,000 cars on the Russian market, 84% of which were Chevrolets. In the first two months of 2007 the company sold almost 26,000 GM cars in Russia, including more than 20,000 Chevrolets.

General Motors, one of the world's largest carmakers, was established in 1908. The company has production facilities in 33 countries. In 2006, GM sales around the world totaled 9.1 million cars.

* La construction d'Ekaterinbourg-City débutera en mai 2007

Les autorités d'Ekaterinbourg ont tenu une réunion élargie concernant la réalisation du projet de construction du quartier d'affaires Ekaterinbourg-City en plein centre de la capitale de l'Oural. Ont pris part à cette réunion : le maire de la ville, Arkadi Tchernetski, le directeur général de la SARL OuGMK Holding, Andreï Kozitsyne (représentant du principal investisseur du projet), le directeur du bureau français d'architecture Valode & Pistre, Jean Pistre.

En présentant le projet, Jean Pistre s'est dit convaincu que Ekaterinbourg-City deviendrait une sorte de symbole de la capitale ouralienne, "qui donnera envie de venir et de rester". Le principal avantage concurrentiel de ce nouveau quartier, a-t-il dit, c'est son lieu d'implantation. Toujours selon lui, le projet est étudié de manière à assurer un confort maximal à ses visiteurs. Le nombre des façades tournées vers le Nord a été limité au minimum et les tours n'empêcheront pas le soleil de pénétrer dans les autres bâtiments. Le centre du quartier laissera suffisamment de place aux espaces verts, plantés de fleurs et d'arbres typiques de l'Oural. Quant à la principale galerie commerciale d'Ekaterinbourg-City, il y fera chaud, même quand la température extérieure descendra à -30°.

Ekaterinbourg-City a été conçu pour devenir le quartier général des affaires du centre de la capitale ouralienne. Il regroupera plus de 400 000 m2 de surfaces commerciales, bureaux, hôtels, centres de loisirs, cafés et restaurants. Le projet se présente, à la base, sous forme de quatre hautes tours accueillant les bureaux, de parcs d'affaires mettant l'accent sur les PME, d'une galerie marchande et de deux hôtels. Il a pour consultant le suisse OPIM International, pour architecte le français Valode & Pistre, et son



unité VP CITE a en charge l'urbanisme. La réalisation du projet a été confiée à une filiale de la OugMK, la SARL Ekaterinbourg-City.(Rost)

* **Russia, France sign JV deal to produce NPP equipment-Rosatom**

MOSCOW, April 2 (RIA Novosti) - Russia's Atomenergomash and France's Alstom have signed an agreement to establish a joint venture to manufacture equipment for nuclear power plants, the nuclear power monopoly Rosatom said Monday. A Federal Nuclear Power Agency spokesman said Russia's state controlled nuclear power corporation will have a 51%-share in the JV. He said the deal is designed to meet growing demand in the nuclear power plant market for power generation, both in Russia and abroad. He said the JV will operate from the platform of the machine-building firm. ZIO Podolsk in the Moscow Region. ZIO Podolsk is the main supplier of equipment to the Bushehr nuclear power plant under construction in Iran. The total level of investment in the JV is 300 million euros. The future joint venture will manufacture the entire conventional island of nuclear power plants, drawing on Alstom's "Arabelle" half-speed turbine technology. Alstom will transfer technology to the joint-venture company, namely for the manufacture of its "Arabelle" steam turbine and generator.

Alstom said the agreement will allow the two partners to propose a complete package including the nuclear reactor and the conventional island. The joint venture will benefit from the best available technology for the conventional island of its nuclear power plants and will have exclusive access to the fast-growing Russian nuclear power plant market.

Alstom is the world leader in nuclear conventional islands, with 175 islands either already in service or in the course of being built in twelve countries around the world, including France, South Africa, China, South Korea and Sweden. Alstom technology is present in more than a quarter of nuclear conventional islands around the globe.

* **Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Works (MMK)** has announced plans to list its global depository receipts (GDR) on the London Stock Exchange in connection with its global IPO.

MMK said it would offer its ordinary shares and GDRs to international institutional investors outside Russia, including to qualified institutional investors in the United States in accordance with Rule 144A of the US Securities Act of 1933. The company will also offer its common stock in Russia.

The flotation will be carried out after receiving the necessary registrations and permits from controlling agencies, including the Federal Service for Financial Markets and the UK Financial Services Authority. MMK's ordinary shares are currently listed on Russia's RTS and MICEX stock exchanges.

ABN AMRO Rothschild, Morgan Stanley and Renaissance Capital will act as joint global coordinators and bookrunners, and Gazprombank will be a joint lead manager.

On 19 January 2007 the Federal Financial Service for Financial Markets issued a permit for MMK to float 3,020,055,400 shares outside Russia. The permit covers both old and new shares (state registrations No. 1-03-00078-A dated 5 November 2002 and No. 1-03-00078-A-002D dated 18 January 2007). If the company floats fewer new shares than shown in the registered decision on the new share issue, it will be able to sell abroad up to 25 percent of the total number of allotted ordinary registered non-documentary shares.

Earlier the Federal Service for Financial Markets registered MMK's new share issue. The company issued 1.45 billion with a nominal value of RUR 1 each. Its authorized capital increased by 13.64 percent to 12,080,221,600 ordinary shares with a nominal value of RUR 1.

MMK, accounting for about 20 percent of Russia's ferrous metals market, is a large metal company engaged in the full production cycle, from the preparation of iron ore to the advanced processing of ferrous metals. In 2006 MMK produced 12.5 million tonnes of steel (up 9.4 percent from 2005) and 11.4 million tonnes of metal products (up 11.2 percent from 2005). Sales increased by 19.4 percent to \$6.424 billion, under US GAAP, and net profit climbed 51.5 percent to \$1.426 billion.

* **Raiffeisen International is the largest foreign bank in Russia**

Strong position on Russian consumer banking market: Ranked 3rd in consumer deposit volumes and 4th in consumer lending.

Raiffeisen International Bank-Holding AG, part of RZB Group, is the largest foreign banking group in Russia according to Interfax's Centre for Economic Analysis (Interfax-CEA). Raiffeisen International, represented in Russia by Raiffeisenbank Austria and



Impexbank, is the seventh-largest bank in Russia in terms of total assets, Interfax-CEA reported, citing data from 1 January 2007, based on Russian Accounting Standards. Total assets of both banks amounted to over 287.5 billion rubles (7.8 billion euros)*.

Raiffeisen International announced the purchase of Impexbank in January 2006. The formal decision to start the legal merger of Raiffeisenbank Austria and Impexbank was made by Raiffeisen International last Thursday, 15 March. The legal merger process will continue until the end of 2007.

Johann Jonach, Chairman of the Board of Raiffeisenbank Austria, said, "During the past year, we have been working intensely on preparing the launch of our legal merger, increasing the charter capital of both Raiffeisenbank and Impexbank. The legal merger will take place by the end of 2007. The combined banks will work under the name of Raiffeisenbank."

Strong position on Russian consumer banking market

Together, Raiffeisenbank and Impexbank are ranked 3rd in Russia in terms of consumer deposit volumes (79.5 billion rubles, approximately 2.2 billion euros) and 4th in consumer lending (48.6 billion rubles, approximately 1.3 billion euros)*, Interfax-CEA reported. The most significant factor in the business development of Raiffeisen International in Russia is the constant expansion of the sales network, which is spread across the country, providing access to more than 140 million people.

According to Pavel Lysenko, Chairman of the Board of Impexbank, "the joint progress of Raiffeisenbank and Impexbank is an excellent achievement and once again demonstrates Raiffeisen International's leading positions on the Russian market. We have proven that together we can react to changing market conditions quickly and efficiently, and render the widest range of services to our clients at the highest level."

Raiffeisenbank Austria is a universal bank, focussing in equal measure on commercial, retail and investment banking activities. It started operations in 1996 and is ranked 10th in Russia in terms of assets, based on 2006 results (Interfax-CEA). In February 2007, top business magazine Global Finance named the Raiffeisen Group Russia's Best Overseas Bank.

Established in 1993, Impexbank is also a universal bank, and is ranked among the top 30 Russian banks in terms of assets and equity and among the top 10 retail banks. The bank's customers are serviced through 203 business outlets, and about 400 points of consumer lending.

*** EU, Russia to sign new partnership agreement in 3-4 yrs - expert**

- A new partnership agreement between the European Union and Russia will be signed only in three to four years, when the EU defines its priorities in relations with Russia, a Russian official said Friday.

The talks on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to replace the current one, which expires in late 2007, were set to begin at the Russia-EU summit in Helsinki in November, but Poland vetoed the talks over Moscow's ban on meat imports from the EU newcomer.

The head of the Russian Foreign and Defense Policy Council presidium, Sergei Karaganov, told a news conference in Moscow that the delay in starting the talks came about not only because Poland vetoed them, but also because EU countries have not yet decided on the nature of their long-term cooperation with Russia.

"The EU does not know what it wants from Russia in the long term," the expert said, adding that Europe is suffering from a political and identity crisis.

"Only after the EU overcomes this crisis, and Russia strengthens even more and thus becomes a more valuable partner for Europe, will it be possible to talk about the conclusion of a new treaty," he said.

Karaganov said a strategic partnership should be accounted for during the work to formalize the new document.

Russia imposed an embargo on Polish meat in November 2005 claiming that meat from third countries was imported under the cover of Polish produce.

Poland sees Russian sanctions as retaliation for Warsaw's backing of the 2004 "orange revolution" in Ukraine, which brought pro-Western forces to power in the country. Relations between Russia and Poland, a former Communist Bloc country that joined the EU in May 2004, have deteriorated dramatically in the past few years.

A string of recent diplomatic spats has increased mutual distrust between the two neighbors, prompting many politicians in Warsaw to conclude that the Kremlin is using the embargo on Polish imports as a political weapon.



NEWS FROM BELARUS

* **Belarus receives loan offerings from European banks,** premier says.

Belarus has been receiving loan offerings from various European banks, Belarusian Premier Sergei Sidorskiy told a press-conference today after a session of the foreign investments consultative board.

The obtaining of a sovereign credit rating will be of great support for Belarus in its activity in the international lending market, he added.

Today the sum of Belarus' foreign debt is \$700 million. The Government has been entitled to attract up to \$2 billion of outside resources on its own, he added.

The Government of Belarus has taken loans from the Russian Federation twice. They have already been fully paid off.

Major Belarusian banks also take foreign loans today. "They have individual credit ratings what helps them successfully attract resources," the head of the Belarusian Government said.

* **Premier: administrative procedures in Belarus will be streamlined to promote investments inflow**

In the near future a document will be adopted in Belarus, which will simplify administrative procedures exercised in the process of attracting foreign investments, Belarusian Premier Sergei Sidorskiy told reporters today after a session of the foreign investment consultative board.

The Prime Minister has pledged the tax burden in Belarus will be further reduced and the taxation system will be streamlined. Belarus treats the issue of getting a sovereign country credit rating with great responsibility, he said. Belarus will get the rating by the end of H2 at least from two rating agencies, he added.

The Government also works hard on promoting Belarusian corporate bonds in international markets, he said.

"It is not for the sake of investments that Belarus attracts investments," he added. The village revival programme is in progress in Belarus; small and medium-size towns are developing their manufacturing base. In this respect, Belarus welcomes foreign investors in the sphere of high-technologies, in various branches of economy, for example, in agriculture, pharmaceutical and processing industries, he added.

One foreign company is willing to invest \$500 million in the creation of a tech-park in the Belarusian High-Tech Park. In May, this project will be analysed in details, Sergei Sidorskiy said.

* **Overall cost of business,** not just of equipment involved, will be essential when privatisation considered

The cost of companies put up for privatisation in Belarus will be determined taking into account their price inside the country and trends in oil prices, Belarusian Premier Sergei Sidorskiy told a press-conference today after a session of the foreign investments consultative board.

Belarus is open to the idea of privatisation of its big manufacturing enterprises. Every year the country adopts a privatisation programme. "We see what companies badly need foreign and domestic investments and put them up for privatisation," he said.

Belarus welcomes any investor who would be willing to come and work in this country. But companies will be sold at their real market price only. This will hang on both inside and outside factors. In this respect he cited the recent growth in oil prices which have doubled in the world market. Of course, this factor influences the market price of Belarusian companies and "naturally, the capitalisation of our plants grows", he noted.

Anyone who would like to participate in privatisation of Belarusian companies should take into account for afore-mentioned conditions, he said. A foreign investor can participate in the privatisation of Belarusian companies paying their market price only. "It is to state how much our companies cost in the market that we have capitalised our industry. They cost as much as many products they manufacture and as much the whole business costs," he added. "We have abandoned the stage of privatisation when we could sell the companies at the price of its machinery and equipment. Today they main thing in this process is the cost of business. It is to modernise our companies that we have invested money in them for," the Government leader said.

Many factories have been investing \$100-300 million every year into their upgrade programmes. This is why their capitalisation is rather high.

Sergei Sidorskiy has categorically rejected any possible propositions concerning selling Belarusian factories for peanuts. "This will not happen, even if we are forced to this step," he said.

* **In H1 2007, investment inflow in Belarus is expected to hit Br2 trillion**

In H1 2007, capital investments in Belarus are expected to hit Br2 trillion, up 24-25% from H1 2006, Belarusian Premier Sergei Sidorskiy told a press-conference today after a session of the foreign investments consultative board.

A more favourable investment climate is being cultivated in Belarus, he said. This is seen by the increasing investments in the manufacturing industry. Earlier investors worked mainly in the sphere of trade. In 2006, Br19.2 trillion (\$9 billion) was invested in Belarus. Over \$700 million was invested in the real economy sector.



Premier: tax burden reduces year by year

Tax burden in Belarus is reducing year by year, Premier Sergei Sidorskiy has said today after a session of the foreign investment consultative board which acts under the Council of Ministers of Belarus.

"Every year we slowly but confidently reduce tax burden and take significant steps to simplify the taxation legislation," the Prime Minister said. However, "it is impossible to simplify everything at once", he added.

The Premier assured the participants of the session, many of whom were foreign investors working in Belarus, that the Government would painstakingly analyse the issues raised at the session.

Many investors have said the main hindrance to smooth inflow of foreign investments in Belarus is unstable legislation. "We take a critical approach to the process of drawing up laws. But we have chosen socially-oriented economy. One can present figures illustrating the state of development of economy in various ways," Sergei Sidorskiy said. Having chosen the socially-oriented course, he went on, Belarus has managed to grow both new manufactures and small and medium-size business simultaneously. All this requires close attention to the processes in progress.

*** Belarus Government promises to simplify business-regulating administrative procedures**

The Belarusian Government has prepared a draft resolution meant to improve and simplify administrative procedures. The step is believed to contribute to the investment attractiveness of the country, said Belarus Prime Minister Sergei Sidorskiy summing up results of today's session of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council.

He noted, in the near future Belarus will pass several other legal acts to foster business development. "We will remove red-tape barriers hampering investors in buying land for building new facilities in Belarusian towns", said Sergei Sidorskiy. "You can build hotels, enterprises instead of tailing officials requesting permissions. These norms are regulated by the Presidential decree on the allocation of ineffectively used land". A step has been made to promote effective utilisation of unfinished facilities. Investors can buy them for one basic amount, informed the Prime Minister.

*** Foreign investors in small Belarusian towns to get three-year preferences**

Foreign investors in small towns will get preferences for three years, Belarus Prime Minister Sergei Sidorskiy said summing up results of today's session of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council.

He noted, after the term expires, the tax remissions for investors in provinces may be extended if the process goes smoothly. The Prime Minister stated, Belarus is interested in foreign investors working in small and medium towns of the country, in their developing businesses there, manufacturing specific commodities. The Government has named a list of commodities the country needs, including import-substituting commodities, which will be produced in provinces. The list of commodities is extensive and varies from consumer goods to industrial equipment. The Government will also welcome the development of hi-tech production facilities, information technologies, processing industries, and pharmaceutical enterprises. Such companies will work to secure the future of our economy and we will do our best to further their development, said the Belarusian head of Government.

Sergei Sidorskiy noted, the Belarusian environment for investors is translucent, regulations have a direct effect.

Session of foreign investment consultative board issues memorandum

The session of the foreign investment consultative board has issued a memorandum today. This is a framework document, Premier Sergei Sidorskiy said. The memorandum contains proposals on further improvement of business environment in Belarus for the promotion of foreign investments.

The session analysed the hindrances for smooth inflow of foreign investments to Belarus and prepared proposals on legal, economic and organisational steps to be taken to spur investment activities in Belarus.

The session was attended by investors from Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, the USA and some European and CIS countries.

Belarus Premier: incorrect to compare volumes of private capital in different economic models

Belarus Prime Minister Sergei Sidorskiy believes it is incorrect to compare the volumes of private capital in countries with different economic models. He made the statement at today's session of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council after a speech by a representative of the World Bank group in Belarus.

According to Sergei Sidorskiy, incomparable cannot be compared. "I respect economies of Armenia and Georgia, but in these countries privatised companies are forsaken and the industrial output they produce is incommensurable with the industrial turnout in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus", noted the Prime Minister. It is necessary to take into account the social and economic model of a state when talking about reforms. Besides, Sergei Sidorskiy noted, it is also incorrect to compare the pace of economic development in countries, which have and which have not mineral deposits.

The Prime Minister of Belarus thanked the World Bank representative for his productive proposals and criticism regarding the removal of administrative barriers hindering business development.

Nikolai Zaichenko: Belarus fosters favourable business environment

Belarus has been developing a favourable business environment, economy minister of Belarus Nikolai Zaichneko said during a session of the foreign investment consultative council.



According to him, bolstering of investment potential of the Belarusian economy is directly linked to the creation of a favourable business environment for operation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The economy minister cited several factors promoting a favourable investment climate and business development in Belarus. A set of measures aimed at the SMEs development by 2010 was drafted. It stipulates measures on investment attraction in small business. An important area for creation of a favourable environment is further facilitation of registration and liquidation procedures of juridical entities and foreign businesses. A declaratory principle of registration of economic entities has been introduced in Belarus. SMEs accountability has been streamlined.

The economy minister called the Presidential Decree on taxation simplification as an important document. The Presidential decree on sale of unused or underused state facilities by auction will also intensify investment activities in the country.

*** Belarus to attract over \$50 billion capital investments in 2006-2010**

In 2006-2010 Belarus intends to attract more than \$50 billion worth of capital investments, twice as much as over the previous five-year period, economy minister Nikolai Zaichenko reported on March 30 during a session of the foreign investment consultative council.

According to the economy minister, it will be impossible to attract such investments without foreign investors. Therefore the Belarusian government intends to promote an increase in the share of foreign capital investments up to 15%.

Nikolai Zaichenko highlighted that the qualitative aspect will be of high importance. "The innovation model of the economic development should dominate the next five years," he said.

The economy minister informed that the government took measures to improve the investment climate in Belarus. A comprehensive plan of action on attraction of foreign investments in Belarus has been developed. It includes economic, information and legal measures.

Nikolai Zaichenko said that a list of companies due to sell part of state shares to investors had been compiled. They include industrial manufactures and food companies. Now a procedure of selling the state share of Belvneshekonombank is nearing completion.

The country also takes measures to improve the business environment.

Nikolai Zaichenko also reminded that work on obtaining credit rating was underway. "The credit rating will promote cheapening of foreign credits in Belarus," the economy minister said.



50 Years of the European Integration and Russia

The article by Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation

While pondering the 50th anniversary of the European Union one is involuntarily prompted to think about history. Two thousand years ago Roman soldiers united enormous territories from Britain to Athens, from the Rhine to the Iberian Peninsula by the sword. Europe has survived many destructive wars and the collapse of empires. It overcame the dictatorship of tyrants and the horrors of Nazism, but at the same time lived through the Renaissance and sowed the seeds of democracy. It was Europe that formulated the noble ideas of Humanism and Enlightenment which formed the foundation of European civilisation.

As often happens, history made an astonishing turn - it was in Rome, the Eternal City, where 50 years ago treaties were signed which laid the foundation for a new association of European nations. This association was based not on force or coercion but on common aspirations and values.

Half a century ago the Treaties of Rome were in many respects innovative and almost revolutionary for their time. Many wounds of World War II had still not healed. But the signatory countries managed to demonstrate political will to work out a joint strategy of cooperation and integration while overcoming the burdens of the past.

The founding fathers of the Pan-European movement dreamed about "the prosperity, peace and independence of the continent". They were right in guessing the future, realising that security and well-being are indivisible. The establishment of the European Communities on 25 March 1957 had an enormous influence in shaping contemporary Europe. Based on the ideas of the Treaties of Rome, the EU states were able to further the rights and freedoms of citizens and achieve economic and social progress.

But it was only the end of the Cold War which brought about real conditions for the fulfilment of the "fundamental" European idea - the unification of the continent. This was "the peace dividend" following the collapse of the Berlin Wall. The Russian people's choice in the early Nineties did not merely expand the space of freedom on the continent but actually determined the path of further European integration.

In many respects this choice was defined by the national history of Russia. In terms of spirit and culture Russia is an integral part of European civilisation. Our people made an invaluable contribution to its development. You cannot imagine European culture without the music of Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich, the writings of Tolstoy and Nabokov, the art of Kandinsky and Malevich.

The history of relations between Russia and Europe is one of mutual influence and benefit. St. Petersburg, my native city, became a magnificent northern capital thanks to architects and artists from Western Europe, many of whom treated Russia as their second home. Symbolically, the people of the city withstood a 900-day blockade by fascist troops in the Second World War, heroically resisting a barbaric ideology that was and is the very antithesis of everything "European".

In his famous Pushkin speech, Fyodor Dostoevsky gave what I would call a political and philosophical definition of Russia's European mission: "Being a true Russian will ultimately mean bringing reconciliation to Europe's contradictions." The great writer sensed perfectly that Europe would never be itself in the world without Russia and, at the same time, that Russia would never cease its "longing for Europe". I strongly believe the full unity of our continent can never be achieved until Russia, as the largest European state, becomes an integral part of the European process.

The reforms of Peter the Great were a decisive step towards the modernisation of the country and firmly introduced Russia into European politics. Since then, Russia has shared all the triumphs and tragedies of Europe, including what the philosopher Berdyayev called its "twilight" period. We have twice played a decisive role in disrupting attempts to unite Europe by force, the last time during World War II. Today's European project, based on the good will of Europeans, would have been unfeasible without this.

Today, building a sovereign democratic state, we fully share the fundamental values and principles of the vast majority of Europeans. Respect for international law, rejection of the use of force in settling international problems and preference for strengthening common approaches in European and global politics are factors that unite us. In our joint work within the UN, the G8 and other multilateral forums, we always feel we share a common view of the world.

A stable, prosperous and united Europe is in our interests. We view European integration as an objective process, representing an integral part of the emerging multi-polar world order. Therefore it is important for us to see that the EU is becoming an increasingly authoritative and influential centre of world politics, considerably contributing to regional and global security.

The development of multifaceted ties with the EU is Russia's principled choice. It is true that in the foreseeable future, for obvious reasons, we have no intention of either joining the EU or establishing any form of institutional association with it. Viewing the



situation in a realistic light, Russia intends to build its relations with the EU on the basis of a treaty and a strategic partnership. In this regard I agree with Romano Prodi's formula of our relationship with the EU: "Anything but institutions".

I would like to underline that we are prepared to develop this partnership to a maximum extent, expecting of course that our partners will meet us half way along this road.

Our common goal of comprehensive, intensive and long-term cooperation is bringing tangible results. Our joint efforts have already allowed us to build a solid foundation for a strategic partnership and promising joint projects. There is an increasing dialogue between various sectors of industry. We have a deepening sense of fellowship in our common struggle against new threats. Bilateral trade relations are flourishing and investments are growing. Cultural, humanitarian and educational contacts are widening. In the nearest future the Visa Facilitation Agreement will become effective - I recently signed the law ratifying it. We regard this agreement as an important step towards the introduction of a visa-free regime.

The interests of Russia and the EU will not always coincide in all respects. Competition is the reverse side of cooperation and an integral part of the process of globalisation. At the same time, one should not, for instance, see political intrigues behind purely economic measures. One should not superimpose Cold War ideological labels on legal and quite understandable actions aimed at protecting our national interests. Let me say again: we are ready to settle any differences through open dialogue and compromise, based on mutually agreed rules.

I am convinced the development of relations between Russia and the EU has logically led us to the need for a Treaty on Strategic Partnership to replace the 10-year old Agreement that will soon expire. The Treaty should become an instrument capable of ensuring a higher level of economic integration and interaction, providing for freedom and security on the European continent. We understand all the difficulties of our partners to come to an agreed position on the new Treaty. We agree it takes time. But it is also clear that any pause in the dialogue is always going to be counterproductive.

Now we have something to think about together. The choice to be made will determine the future outlook of the continent for many decades to come. We should not let bloc mentalities prevail in European politics, nor should we allow new dividing lines to appear on our continent or unilateral projects to be implemented to the detriment of the interests and security of our neighbours. We also expect the evolution of the EU will serve to strengthen the unity of our common continent, to develop broad cooperation in Europe.

I am convinced that only on a genuinely collective, trustworthy basis is it possible to find solutions to the world's problems: the question of anti-missile defences in Europe, the stabilisation of Afghanistan, how we deal with an entire range of new challenges and threats, including international terrorism, the non-proliferation of WMD, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and global poverty. Russia stands ready for that. I hope the choice will be made in favour of mutual efforts to construct our common future. Half a century ago six European nations, principally the French and the Germans, firmly decided to put aside former enmities and, as Angela Merkel has noted, "grow together". The people of the new democratic Russia sincerely want their country to become a prosperous power living a dignified life in friendship and harmony with their neighbours.

We wish our European partners success, and count on continuing fruitful cooperation for the benefit of peace and progress.
March 25, 2007

The impact of gas and oil price increase on the Belarusian economy in 2007

Current situation

According to the provisions of the contract signed with Russian Gazprom, Belarus should buy gas for the two-fold increased price at USD 100/1000m³ in 2007. The price is now the lowest among the former Soviet union states, however it should gradually move up to market rates in the coming years. In parallel, Gazprom will pay the price for 50% of Beltransgaz acquisition within four-years tenor (USD 2.5 bn/4=USD 625 mn. per year).

The higher gas price will hit the industrials in 2007 via nearly doubled gas and electricity costs. We estimate that gross additional costs are USD 1.06 bn. However, despite the lowered profitability in general, the industry should be able to bear the increased price. State subsidies to key and high power-consuming enterprises are expected.

Late at night on January 12, 2007 Belarus and Russia agreed the custom duty for crude oil exports to Belarus at USD 53 per ton, while earlier Belarus paid none. This fact will create additional costs for oil refineries at around USD 1.05 bn in 2007, lowering their profitability from 30% to 12%.

Total losses resulting from the gas price increase and the introduction of custom duty for crude oil exports to Belarus will amount to approximately USD 2.1 bn, or 5% of Belarusian GDP.

Possible consequences for the economy

We do not change our forecast for GDP growth. We expect a slowdown of growth from 9.9% last year to 6.5% this year. However, the slowdown of growth will have a negative effect on inflation, the current account and on the budget. The budget deficit will rise from a very small deficit of minus 0.2% to 2.0%. The biggest deterioration will happen in the trade balance and in the current account.

The negative "Terms of Trade" shock should bring a C/A deficit of -5.9% in 2007 (after -2.1% in 2006). In 2008 we expect that the current account will deteriorate again. Inflation is likely to increase not as much, because the gas price hike will not be immediately transferred by the full amount to the households (like in the Ukraine 2006). However, the trend in the CPI should change until the end of the year 2008. We expect that inflation will rise again above 10% next year. We also forecast that the unemployment rate will start to climb this year and the positive development of FX reserves should also be reversed.

State Budget

The 2007 budget will be burdened with the losses incurred by industrials (- USD 509 mn.) and extra expenditures to subsidize agriculture, energy consuming industries and households (-USD 1.07 bn.)

The adjustments to budget revenues which should result from gas transit costs (+USD 61.25 mn.), and the first tranche for 12.5% of Beltransgas (+ USD 625 mn.) will bring a deficit of USD 890 mn.

Exchange Rate Forecast

The short-term foreign debt can be refinanced via import reductions implementing administrative barriers and growth of foreign state debt (in the longterm outlook via foreign direct investments). However, long-term obligations remain uncovered. Therefore a devaluation of Belarusian Rouble is inevitable.

Source: Priorbank, Raiffeisen RESEARCH

Analysts: Gerhard Lechner gerhard.lechner@raiffeisenresearch.at

Olga Laschevskaya olga.laschevskaya@priorbank.by



Moscow is no longer Kazakhstan's only friend

There are signs of a chill in Russian-Kazakh relations, as shown by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Moscow on March 19-20.

Despite obvious achievements in trade and economic cooperation, the Kremlin is left with fewer and fewer possibilities of influencing its former-Soviet neighbor. Nevertheless, the cooling of bilateral relations should not be exaggerated.

While Europe, the United States, China and Russia compete for Eurasian resources, Kazakhstan is playing its own game, called "multi-vector politics." The heightening confrontation between Russia and the West on energy security issues is forcing the government in Astana, the Kazakh capital, to distance itself from Moscow, which naturally irritates the latter.

In their press statements after the meeting in Moscow, both the Kazakh president and Russian President Vladimir Putin named joint development of Caspian Sea hydrocarbon resources as a priority area of cooperation. Yet there are differences in their positions on the issue. Kazakhstan is already connected to a pipeline that carries Caspian oil from Baku (Azerbaijan) to Tbilisi (Georgia) and on to Ceyhan (Turkey), from which it is shipped to Western markets bypassing Russia. Nazarbayev discussed the construction of gas and oil pipelines across the Caspian Sea, also bypassing Russia, with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney last May and with U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman last September. In late February, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher reminded Nazarbayev of the agreements reached during his visit to Washington last September.

Moscow is dissatisfied with its Central Asian partner also because of Nazarbayev's plans to attend an energy summit that will be held in Poland in May. The Polish president, Lech Kaczynski, is expected to meet the leaders of four ex-Soviet countries - Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan - to discuss the possibility of extending Ukraine's Odessa-Brody oil pipeline to the Polish city of Plock to pump Kazakh oil to Poland. Last month, Astana announced the formation of a Kazakh-Polish working group to discuss the project. Kaczynski also wants to raise the issue during his visit to Astana on March 28.

There are also problems with Russian-Kazakh projects announced earlier. The parties have so far failed to agree on terms for the supply of associated gas from the Karachaganak gas condensate field in Kazakhstan to the Orenburg gas processing plant in Russia.

The problem of increasing the capacity of the Caspian Oil Pipeline Consortium's pipeline (CPC) to 67 million metric tons of oil a year remains unresolved. The CPC pumps oil from the Tengiz field in Kazakhstan to the Russian port of Novorossiisk, from which it is shipped by tankers through the Turkish straits to global markets. In 2005, Moscow promised Astana that it would consider the construction of a second CPC pipeline, but after Russian managers were put in charge of the consortium the issue stalled again. Remarkably, the signing of a trilateral Russian-Bulgarian-Greek agreement on the construction of an oil pipeline from Burgas in Bulgaria to Alexandroupolis in Greece coincided with Nazarbayev's visit to Moscow. Admittedly, it will be difficult to fill the new pipeline to capacity without Kazakh oil. Astana is perfectly aware of that. It is no coincidence that Nazarbayev said in an interview with a Russian television channel that the project would not be economically feasible unless it involved Kazakhstan. However, the Russian oil companies that are the pipeline's major shareholders are in no hurry to invite Kazakhstan's state-owned oil company, Kazmunaigaz, to join the project. Apparently, such a move would require a political agreement.

All these circumstances make the bilateral energy dialog more difficult, causing suspicions and irritation. Nazarbayev even had to emphasize that Russia and Kazakhstan were partners, not rivals, in the oil and gas sector.

At the same time, problems in Russian-Kazakh energy cooperation should not be over-dramatized. Russia remains an important transit country for Kazakh oil exports. During his visit, Nazarbayev noted that Kazakhstan had exported over 40 million metric tons of oil (its entire output totalled 65 million tons) and 24 billion cubic meters of gas through Russia. A joint venture was set up to develop offshore resources in the Caspian Sea.

Now, the resurgence of interest in nuclear power generation has opened up another important area of cooperation in the energy sphere. Russia and Kazakhstan have set up three joint ventures in the sector: a uranium enrichment plant in Angarsk, in Russia's Irkutsk region, and two companies registered in Almaty, Kazakhstan: Atomnye Stantsii and Akbastau. The latter two are working on generation units with low- and medium-power nuclear reactors and are developing the Yuzhnoye Zarechnoye and Budyonovskoye uranium fields in Kazakhstan. That both countries are interested in the sector has been proven by Nazarbayev's proposal to Putin, inviting him to visit Kazakhstan this summer to discuss the joint development of Kazakh uranium fields and nuclear-fuel enrichment.

The diversification of foreign ties is of course inevitable. Moreover, Kazakhstan will be increasing its commodities exports and competing with Russia for influence in Central Asia and among all former-Soviet republics. Obviously, Nazarbayev now has several scenarios to choose from, because the players in the region include not only the United States and Russia but also China, which is becoming an increasingly significant factor in regional geopolitics. So the Kazakh president's visit to Moscow had both practical and strategic goals. The latter was a simultaneous demonstration of Kazakhstan's continued desire to be friends with Russia and the limits of its loyalty to Moscow, which is fully in accordance with the principles of its "multi-vector diplomacy."

Igor Tomberg is a senior research fellow with the Energy Research Center at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The opinions expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily represent ours.



De lessen van Sakhalin - 2

Vadim Loekov, Ambassadeur van Rusland in België,

De westerse pers en het bedrijfsleven hebben de voorbije maanden met veel aandacht de situatie gevolgd rond Sakhalin-2, het grootste olie- en gasproject ter wereld. Die aandacht is volledig gerechtvaardigd. Niet alleen omdat de olie- en gasvelden goed zijn voor 150 miljoen ton olie en 500 miljard kubieke meter gas. Zowel in het Westen als in Rusland heeft men intussen een veel belangrijker, politiek aspect gezien: Sakhalin-2 is een mijlpaal geworden in de langdurige betrekkingen tussen Russische en buitenlandse spelers op de energiemarkt.

De westerse pers verkoos in het verhaal van Sakhalin het bewijs te zien van een 'een verlangen van de Russische regering om de energiesector te beheersen', en van 'het streven van het Kremlin naar kortetermijnwinst ten nadele van de langdurige belangen van de internationale energieveiligheid'. Maar volgens mij kan Sakhalin-2 leiden tot objectievere en nog belangrijker wederzijds nuttige conclusies.

Ecologische vereisten

Bij de realisatie van economische projecten, waaronder ook gezamenlijke initiatieven, mogen er geen verschillende ecologische standaarden gelden voor het Westen enerzijds en Rusland anderzijds. De ecologische eisen van de Russische regering aan het adres van de deelnemers aan Sakhalin-2 werden in het Westen meteen verdacht genoemd. Maar is dat wel zo? Laten we niet vergeten dat het niet het Russische milieuagentschap Rosprirodnadzor maar wel het Wereldnatuurfonds was dat van de Europese Bank voor Wederopbouw en Ontwikkeling (EBRD) had geëist geen krediet te verstrekken aan de operator van het project (Sakhalin Energy), omdat dat bedrijf 'niet voldoet aan de hoge wereldwijde vereisten qua ecologische standaarden, en daardoor geen middelen kan claimen'.

Nog een ander feit: hetzelfde bedrijf heeft 25 (!) schadeclaims over de bouw van het Molikpak-platform afgewezen die door het onafhankelijke Russisch ecologisch centrum waren ingediend. Toen het bedrag van de ecologische schade vele keren werd verminderd en opnieuw ongeschikt leek voor de operator, heeft hij het contract met ecologen verbroken en begon hij andere, meer 'inschikkelijke' specialisten te zoeken.

Het gebied waarover hier sprake is, is een van de rijkste delen van de Zee van Ochotsk op het vlak van visvoorraden. Voor het begin van de bouwwerken leefden er niet minder dan 108 vissoorten, 5 krabbensoorten en 7 garnalensoorten. Tijdens de seizoensmigratie van vogels maakten ongeveer 200.000 zwanen, eenden en meeuwen hier een tussenlanding. In het gebied waar natuurlijke rijkdommen werden gewonnen, ligt het eiland Tjoelenij, dat tot de top drie van de pleisterplekken voor zeehonden ter wereld behoort.

Dat alles in acht genomen zou het misdadig zijn om de schending van de Russische milieuwetgeving door de operatoren van Sakhalin-2 door de vingers te zien. Iedereen herinnert zich de gevolgen van het ongeluk van de olietanker Exxon Valdez. Nadat er op de kusten van Alaska 40.000 ton olie was gelekt, bleven er slechts 2 van de 28 diersoorten over. Specialisten van Sakhalin Energy hebben de Russische overheid geen resultaten voorgelegd van de seismische bestendigheid van de gigantische reservoirs die werden gebouwd, noch een prognose van de wisselwerking tussen die reservoirs met hun geologische omgeving. En dat terwijl zich in de regio vaak aardbevingen voordoen.

Dit alles betekent niet dat de ecologische wetgeving van Rusland alleen door buitenlanders moet worden nageleefd. De natuur maakt geen onderscheid tussen de nationaliteiten van de bedrijven die haar vernietigen. De ecologische claims tegen Sakhalin Energy zijn maar één episode uit een reeks onderzoeken die de Russische overheid de voorbije jaren voerde, zonder dat ze daarbij rekening hield met de nationaliteit van de gecontroleerde bedrijven. Wij brengen even in herinnering dat het bedrijf Transneft de route van zijn oliepijpleiding rond het Bajkalmeeer moest veranderen onder druk van ecologen én van de regering, wat het project 1 miljoen dollar duurder maakte. Die interventie werd toen door de westerse pers als 'een teken van het ontstaan van een burgermaatschappij in Rusland' beschouwd. Waarom spreekt men in het Westen niet over een burgermaatschappij en ecologische veiligheid wanneer de belangen van westerse bedrijven op Sakhalin worden geschaad?

Gewijzigde spelregels

Hoe evenwichtiger en rechtvaardiger de Russische energieovereenkomsten voor de betrokkenen zijn, hoe steviger de posities van buitenlandse spelers op de Russische energiemarkt. Het Westen ziet in de handelingen van de Russische regering en het energiebedrijf Gazprom 'een onrechtvaardige verandering van de spelregels op de Russische energiemarkt'. Het moet gezegd: noch de oorspronkelijke voorwaarden van de overeenkomst over de productieverdeling uit 1994, noch de veranderingen die Sakhalin Energy in 2005 in het project wou aanbrengen, hielden ten volle rekening met onze belangen. De projecten van de productieverdelingsovereenkomst zijn in het midden van de jaren negentig geïnitieerd toen de Russische staat en bedrijven niet over eigen middelen beschikten om de plannen te realiseren. Aangezien het investeringsklimaat te riskant was, eisten

buitenlanders wezenlijke dividenden. Volgens de voorwaarden van de overeenkomst van 1994 over Sachalin-2 gaat bijna de hele productie (90%) naar de investeerder tot hij zijn geïnvesteerde middelen terugverdiend heeft en 10% naar de staat. Pas vanaf een bepaald niveau van rentabiliteit (17,5%) én afhankelijk van de Amerikaanse inflatie (dit zijn volstrekt ongelooflijke voorwaarden!) wordt die verhouding 50%-50%.

Wat meer is: de projectoperator begon zelfs deze eenzijdige voorwaarden in zijn eigen voordeel 'aan te passen'. Bij het afsluiten van de PSA-overeenkomst (Production Sharing Agreement, die bepaalt hoeveel olie en gas privébedrijven toegewezen krijgen bij de winning in een land, nvdr) werden de benodigde investeringen op 9,8 miljard dollar geschat. Maar in 2003 werden de kosten van het project tot 12 miljard dollar opgekrikt, en in september 2005 waarschuwde het bedrijf de Russische autoriteiten dat de kosten tot 20 miljard dollar waren gestegen. Als gevolg daarvan zou de productieverdeling niet in 2006 (zoals het eerder gepland) maar pas tegen 2014 kunnen plaatsvinden. Daarnaast begon de Russische zijde eraan te twijfelen of het 'opblazen' van de investeringen wel gegrond was. De kosten van de juridische diensten waren bijna verdubbeld, die van de aanwervingen van buitenlands personeel waren tweeënhalf keer toegenomen, net als de stijging van de reiskosten. Conform de overeenkomst moest het aandeel van Russische personeel, bouwmaterialen en uitrusting tot 70% opgevoerd worden. Eind 2006 was dat nog geen 50%.

Niet minder erg was een andere wijziging van de spelregels door de projectoperator: een ongegronde prijsverlaging van de gewonnen olie. De Russische Rekenkamer heeft feiten blootgelegd waaruit blijkt dat de operator in de berekeningen een prijs van 34 dollar per vat hanteerde, terwijl de reële prijs 60 dollar was.

Hoe moest de Russische regering, die door al die 'projectwijzigingen' 10 miljard dollar zou verliezen, hierop reageren? Het staatsenergiebedrijf Gasprom onderhandelde gedurende twee jaar met Shell over een deelname aan het project. Wij willen hierbij beklemtonen dat de deelnemers aan het project van bij het begin geen bezwaar hadden tegen de aansluiting van Gasprom; het ging over de voorwaarden van Gasproms toetreden. Op 21 december 2006 ondertekenden Shell, Mitsubishi en Mitsui het protocol over de deelname van Gasprom.

De prijs van het aandelenpakket dat Gasprom in het project inbracht, bedroeg 7,45 miljard dollar. Sakhalin Energy blijft ook na de toetreding van Gasprom zijn functies uitoefenen als projectoperator van Sakhalin-2. Gasprom zal op zijn beurt een leidende rol in het project spelen als meerderheidsaandeelhouder. Shell blijft zijn aanzienlijke bijdrage leveren aan het operationele bestuur van Sakhalin Energy, en behoudt zijn plaats als technische consultant. De aandeelhouders hebben zich voorgenomen om het project verder te ontwikkelen conform het plan van de werkzaamheden dat eerder al goedgekeurd was, en dat onder meer het verkrijgen van de nodige vergunningen conform de Russische wetgeving en de PSA-overeenkomst bepaalt.

Het besluit dat ervoor zorgt dat Rusland zijn inkomsten niet kwijtraakt door de kostenstijging van Sakhalin-2 wordt formeel gemaakt middels de ondertekening van een aanvullende overeenkomst bij het PSA in het eerste kwartaal van 2007.

Lees de wetsontwerpen

Rusland is als geen ander geïnteresseerd in de uitvoering van Sakhalin-2 samen met buitenlandse partners. Daar zijn goede redenen voor. Dit is het grootste project in de Russische olie- en gassector, de belangrijke inkomstenbron voor de begroting, en de toegang tot nieuwe technologieën. Het feit dat Sakhalin-2 de energiebevoorrading van de regio via de Stille Oceaan moet verstevigen, is van het grootste belang. Al het gas van Sakhalin-2 is al toegewezen. De eerste leveringen aan Japan en Zuid-Korea zullen in 2009 plaatsvinden.

Zoals de heer Vladimir Poetin, president van Rusland, beklemtoonde zal de regering enerzijds alle steun aan het project verlenen en zal ze anderzijds respect vragen voor de Russische wetgeving. Het bestuur van Shell hoopt op zijn beurt dat Gasprom als meerderheidsaandeelhouder mee zal helpen om (milieu-)problemen rond het project op te lossen.

De critici van de Russische regering proberen in de Sakhalin-2-epos pogingen van de Russische regering te zien om de westerse zakenwereld uit de nationale economie te verdrijven. Er wordt verwezen naar de wetsontwerpen inzake investeringsgaranties, die in de Staatsdoema worden behandeld. Men hoeft die wetsontwerpen maar eens goed door te lezen om zich ervan te verzekeren dat ze er alleen op gericht zijn de rechten van zowel buitenlandse als nationale eigenaren goed te beschermen, en dat het aantal domeinen waarin men geen buitenlands geld mag gebruiken vermindert. Die domeinen zullen zich tot de vereisten van de nationale veiligheid beperken. Dat principe wordt overal ter wereld toegepast, al dan niet op basis van duidelijke rechtsnormen. Herinnert u zich enkele voorbeelden, zoals toen de Verenigde Staten de aankoop van havengebouwen door een Arabisch bedrijf verboden, of toen de regeringen van de EU-landen hun standpunt innamen inzake de uitbreiding van de Russische deelname aan het EADS-project (European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company, nvdr).

'Het is belangrijk dat wij (buitenlandse partners, vl) respect tonen voor de soevereiniteit van Rusland met betrekking tot zijn strategische voorraden', zegt Iain Conn, gedelegeerd bestuurder van BP Group. 'Het is duidelijk dat de Russische staat zijn energiebronnen met zorg wenst te besturen. Het zijn de belangrijkste activa van het land, en een belangrijke motor van de groei van het bbp.' Het beter uitdrukken, kan niet. "Knack"

KLEINE AANKONDIGINGEN:

Voorstellen voor samenwerking

PETITES ANNONCES:

Propositions de collaboration

The CCBLR can in no way be held responsible for the content of these ads.

FOR SALE

70 KM S-E OF MOSKOU INDUSTRIAL LANDPLOTS WITH INFRASTRUCTURE (ROAD, RAILWAY, GAS, ELECTRICITY AND WATER).
For Info call: +32/474/98.71. 03

"Standplaats Moskou"

Ruim 15 jaar woonde en werkte Karel Onwijn voor langere perioden in Rusland en vanaf 1997 was hij er permanent correspondent voor onder meer De Tijd (Be), Het Financieele Dagblad, Het Parool, Reformatorisch Dagblad en ANP. Naast aandacht voor belangrijke politieke gebeurtenissen zoals de coup tegen Gorbatsjov en de opkomst van Poetin schrijft hij vooral over het dagelijkse leven in het post-communistische Moskou. De aanvankelijk stille, armoedig aandoende en grijze stad heeft hij zien veranderen in een welvarende en kleurrijke metropool. Helaas zijn de corruptie en bureaucratie gebleven. Een typerend moment: "Tijdens een nachtelijke wandeling over het streng bewaakte, en nog altijd heilige Rode Plein liep een van de bewakingsagenten plotseling op mij toe. Nadat hij via een walkietalkie een collega had gemeld dat hij waarschijnlijk weer 'beef' had, fluisterde hij: 'Wil je voor wat dollars achter de bewakers het balkon van het Leninmausoleum opklimmen en er even kort zwaaien zoals Stalin en Brezjnev dat vroeger ook hebben gedaan?'"

Karel Onwijn is contemporain historicus/politicoloog. Hij schreef eerder Landenreeks Oekraïne (2006) en Landenreeks Rusland (2006) voor KIT Publishers.

Het boek is verkrijgbaar in de boekhandel of te bestellen via www.epo.be

JOB :

SEMENOVA Veronika

Russian national, seeks a job in Belgium.

Post-graduate studies in management (Bordeaux 4 University 2007; Manager Training Programme for Russian young managers financed by the European Union 2003). Working experience as office administrator and regional commercial manager for leading Italian furniture and clothing distribution companies (1996-2006). Available as export manager for Russia and Russian-speaking countries. I am fluent in Russian, French, Italian and English. Please contact me at veronicasemenova@hotmail.com

BUKOVSKAJA Viktorija

Ingénieur au chemin de fer de Université de Briansk (Diplôme reconnu par la Communauté flamande), Vilvorde: VDAB : Service financier, employer. Langues: Russian, French, Dutch (basic english). Free immediately.

1800 Vilvorde Tél. 0497/23 20 64 E-mail: vikbuk@hotmail.com

DZYUBA Alexandre

Business Development or Sales Manager (Assistant) for East European, Russian and Central Asian Markets. Fluent Russian, English, Ukrainian, French, basic Dutch. Excellent knowledge of Eastern European, Russian and Central Asian markets. Working experience in Sales and Marketing with European companies. MBA in Business Administration. Working experience in multicultural teams.

Dynamic, customer minded and result driven. E-mail: aleksandr.dzyuba@yahoo.fr GSM: +(32)497 228 228

PLONSKAYA Natalya

Licenciée en langue et littérature russe, vous propose ses services pour tout travail de traduction /correction du français vers le russe et l'ukrainien ainsi que pour toute tâche de secrétariat. Travail rapide et soigné.

N'hésitez pas à me contacter. Tél. : 0484/29.26.04 – E-mail : plonskaya@yahoo.fr

SOROKINA Tatyana

Education: Certified Auditor. Experience: secretary at the Public Administration 7 years, Financial Auditing at the Tax Police Department 7 years in Russia.

Languages: Russian, I speak English and I am learning French. I am skilled in data processing (Word, Excel, Internet). I am 38 years old, I live in Brussels, I have a legal Residence Permit, and a valid Work Permit. I am motivated and serious.

Contact: TatyanaVikt@yandex.ru



De Russische taal wedstrijd in het Russisch Wetenschappelijk en Cultureel Centrum te Brussel

Op 31 maart 2007 vond in het Russisch Wetenschappelijk en Cultureel Centrum te Brussel de eerste Russische taal wedstrijd voor de Prijs van de Ambassadeur van de Russische Federatie plaats. Aan deze wedstrijd namen deel de studenten van Russische taal, literatuur en cultuur uit de acht grootste hogescholen van België:

De Vrije Universiteit Brussel, de Universiteit Bergen-Henegouwen, het Instituut voor Vertalers en Tolken te Antwerpen, het Hoger Instituut Gent, het Instituut Marie Haps, het Hoger Instituut voor Vertalers en Tolken, de Universiteit Gent en de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

De jury was samengesteld uit gezaghebbende docenten-russisten van Belgische universiteiten en hogescholen, onder wie de huidige medevoorzitters van de Belgische Vereniging van Docenten Russische taal en literatuur K. Alaverdyan (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) en T. Soldatenkova (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), alsmede de eredevoorzitters van deze vereniging J. Blankoff (lid van de Koninklijke Academie voor Oudheidkunde van België) en E. Waegemans (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven).

Het schriftelijke gedeelte van de wedstrijd bestond uit een vertaling in het Russisch uit het Frans of het Nederlands en een opstel in het Russisch over het thema: "Rusland vanaf en dichtbij". In het mondelinge gedeelte, dat doorging in het Russisch, droegen de studenten gedichten en stukjes proza uit het hoofd voor en beantwoordden vragen op het gebied van Russische literatuur en cultuur.

De uitslag van de wedstrijd werd bekend gemaakt tijdens een feestelijke plechtigheid op de Ambassade van Rusland. De winnaars ontvingen hun prijs uit de handen van de Ambassadeur van de Russische Federatie, de heer V.B. Loekov.

Als herinnering aan de wedstrijd overhandigde de heer A.A. Lopushinsky, directeur van het Russisch Wetenschappelijk en Cultureel Centrum te Brussel, aan alle deelnemers bovendien een serie boeken uit de klassieke en moderne Russische literatuur en dvd's met kunstfilms.

Concours de la langue russe au Centre culturel et scientifique de Russie Bruxelles

Le 31 mars 2007, le Centre culturel et scientifique de Russie à Bruxelles a accueilli le premier concours de la langue russe, ses lauréats étant récompensés par les Prix de l'Ambassadeur de la Fédération de Russie. Le concours a réuni des étudiants apprenant la langue, la littérature et la civilisation russes et représentant les huit plus grands établissements d'enseignement supérieur belges, dont:

l'Université libre de Bruxelles, l'Université de Mons-Hainaut, l'Institut supérieur de traducteurs et interprètes d'Anvers, l'École supérieure de Gand, l'Institut libre Marie Haps, l'Institut supérieur de traducteurs et interprètes de Bruxelles,

l'Université de Gand, l'Université catholique de Louvain.

Le jury du concours inclut les enseignants de russe les plus compétents des universités et des écoles belges, y compris les coprésidents actifs de l'Association belge des enseignants de la langue et de la littérature russes Karine Alaverdian (Université libre de Bruxelles) et Tatiana Soldatenkova (Université catholique de Louvain) ainsi que les coprésidents honoraires Jean Blankoff (membre de l'Académie royale d'archéologie de Belgique) et Emmanuel Waegemans (Université catholique de Louvain).

La partie écrite du concours comprenait une traduction vers le russe à partir du français ou du néerlandais et une rédaction en russe sur le thème "La Russie proche et lointaine". Au cours de la partie orale qui s'est déroulée en russe, les étudiants devaient réciter des poésies et des morceaux de prose et répondre à des questions concernant la littérature et la culture russe. Le bilan du concours a été dressé lors d'une cérémonie solennelle qui a eu lieu à l'ambassade de Russie.

Les lauréats ont obtenu leurs prix des mains de l'ambassadeur de la Fédération de Russie en Belgique, Vadim Loukov.

En outre, le directeur du Centre culturel et scientifique de Russie, Alexandre Lopouchinsky, a remis à tous les participants au concours des livres d'auteurs russes classiques et contemporains et des films de fiction sur DVD.



Request for Membership

**BELGIAN-LUXEMBOURG CHAMBER of COMMERCE
for RUSSIA and BELARUS
Certified CCI**

Avenue Louise, 500 1050 Brussels - www.ccbler.org
Tél : 0473 94 86 55 - e-mail : ccbler@belgacom.net arkarian@yahoo.fr

- **REQUEST for MEMBERSHIP (12 months)**
Company: 250€ - Honorary membership: 1.250€
- **Banner in our Web Site www.ccbler.org:**
1.200€/First Year (1.000€ next)
- **Logo in "EAST INFORM" first page**
1 year, 10 n°s: 1.000 €/year
(East inform is received by 1.350 Belgian Enterprises,
300 Russians and 200 Administrations)
- **"Combi": Honorary member + Banner**
12 months: 2.000€
- **"Combi": Honorary member+ Sponsor EAST**
12 months: 1.800€
- **"Combi": Honorary member + Banner + Sponsor EAST**
12 months: 2.500€

PS : Banner : please in .swf format

.....

Company:

Adress:

.....

Postal code & city:

General Manager:

Contact person:

Position:

Phone (general): Mobile:

Phone (direct line): Fax:

E-mail:

Website:

Number of employees:

Activity:

I WANT TO BECOME MEMBER for 12 months and
transfer euro on the account number: **210-0559990-61**
IBAN: BE622100559990-61 - BIC: GEBABB36A

Date: Signature:

COMPOSITION & FONCTIONNEMENT SAMENSTELLING EN TAAKVERDELING

CONTACT : CONSEILLER GENERAL / ALGEMENE RAADGEVER :

Arkady Arianoff, +32 473 948 655 ccblr@belgacom.net or a.arianoff@ccblr.org - Fax: +32.2 353 13 11

WEB SITE : <http://www.ccblr.org>

PRESIDENT/VOORZITTER :

Luc Willame, former senior executive vice-president, Asahi Glass Group

COMITE DE DIRECTION / DIRECTIE COMITE :

Daniel Stevens, *vice-président et secrétaire général / vice-voorzitter en generaal-secretaris*, consultant, secteur bancaire / raadgever voor de banksector +32 474 69 07 97 dstevensric@skynet.be

Paul Scheynen, *vice-président et trésorier / vice-voorzitter en penningmeester*, administrateur, Fédération des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de Belgique / bestuurder, Federatie der Kamers voor Handel en Nijverheid van België. +32 495 82 96 60 pscheynen@yahoo.com

Chamber of Commerce of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, *administrateur / bestuurder*: représentée par/ vertegenwoordig door : Sabrina Sagramola + (352) 423939-316 comex@cc.lu

Alain Caris-Reynders, *administrateur / bestuurder* - Russian Travel Agency (RTA), +32 2 502 44 40

François de Hemptinne, *administrateur / bestuurder* - Area Manager, Agoria, +32 2 706 79 39 francois.dehemptinne@agoria.be

Dimitri de Heering, *administrateur / bestuurder*, consultant, energy sector, dimitri.deheering@skynet.be, +32 2 733 82 56

Olivier Pêtre, Asiatex, +32 477 22 60 73

Christian Zenner, *administrateur / bestuurder* - T.R.S nv Antwerpen - christian@trseurope.com, +32 3 213 95 40

AUTRES ADMINISTRATEURS / ANDERE BESTUURDERS :

Nina Carree, *vice-présidente/vice-voorzitter*, human resources consultant, Altedia-Drouot

Georgi Chochitaichvili, area manager, Corman S.A.

Guy Deconinck, vice Chairman SIBELCO Ramenskyi Unit - gsm: 0474 98 71 03 - e-mail: guydeco.axia@skynet.be

Victor V. Kouznetsov, representative for Benelux and France, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation

Koen Schoors, Professor economics, Ghent University

Jozef Somers, Certification Manager Benelux, SGS Belgium NV.

Axel Van der Stappen, Art dealer, Galerie De Jonckheere