

**Progress report agreed by the coordinators of
the EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation
for information to the EU-Russia Summit of 7 December 2010**

The EU-Russia Summit of 1 June 2010 in Rostov-on-Don launched the EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation and tasked the coordinators to develop a work plan. Such a work plan has been prepared. The work plan is an informal rolling working tool and will be regularly updated, taking into account newly agreed activities/projects and achievements. This progress report describes and takes stock of the work undertaken and gives examples of concrete practical activities and projects agreed so far.

The dialogues under the EU-Russia Common Spaces have met on the various areas listed as priority in the Joint Declaration of 1 June 2010, with the aim to agree on joint activities/projects under the Partnership for Modernisation initiative. In addition, work has been undertaken by the private sector through the EU-Russia Roundtable of Industrialists (IRT). Contacts are being developed between civil society on both sides.

Priorities and examples of agreed activities/projects:

While work is in progress to identify further activities, the coordinators are pleased that a number of concrete results can already be noted at this stage, six months after the launch of the Partnership.

In the priority area of expanding opportunities for investment in key sectors driving growth and innovation, numerous projects involving companies from the EU and Russia are underway and/or planned in a range of industrial and technological sectors, including telecommunications and information technologies, energy efficiency and energy saving and transport. Both sides agreed to step up cooperation to promote SMEs. The practical experience of investors should help policy makers to identify concrete measures needed to create an enabling environment leading to additional opportunities for investment and trade.

In the area of promoting a low-carbon economy, both sides agreed to increase the exchange of experiences in the regulation of industrial activities, for example in the area of integrated permitting based on best available techniques, and decided to launch the Russian component of a shared environmental information system.

In the area of energy efficiency, a roadmap on our energy cooperation will enhance our energy dialogue with a common long-term perspective. It was agreed to support pilot projects and facilitate investment, in particular through cooperation with International Financial Institutions. Specific actions to raise awareness and improve education and training will be taken. We will exchange best practices and work towards improving the regulatory framework in the field of energy.

In the priority area of facilitating and liberalizing trade in the global economy and enhancing and deepening bilateral trade and economic relations, important work is ongoing on Russia's early WTO accession and Russia's accession to the OECD within the established multilateral accession processes. In the customs area, an early warning mechanism to prevent border congestion will be established.

In the area of technical regulations and standards it was agreed to identify a number of technical regulations where alignment of Russian and EU regulations can be achieved within one year ; and a broader list where alignment can be achieved by end-2012. An exchange of experience on

enforcement of intellectual property rights was agreed, as well as the facilitation of closer cooperation of the European Patent Office and the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market with Rospatent, including on issues related to trademark and industrial design legislation.

In the priority area of research and development it was agreed that an increased active role of Russia in EU Framework Programmes and of the EU in Russian Federal Task programmes should improve interaction, based on mutual interest. The dialogue on space cooperation agreed on a number of joint activities, such as the preparation of a global navigation satellite systems cooperation agreement (Galileo and Glonass), the first launch of Soyuz from Europe's Spaceport, or cooperation with ESA, such as carrying out joint biomedical and biological experiments onboard the International Space Station (ISS).

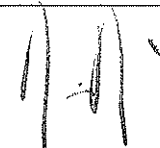

The EU-Russia Industrialists' Round Table will start a series of workshops focusing on different innovative sectors, including pharmaceuticals/health, energy efficiency, environment, transport. The Russian side invites representatives of business and scientific circles of Russia and EU Member States to participate in projects of the "Skolkovo" Centre of elaboration and commercialization of new technologies.

In the priority area of the rule of law and the effective functioning of the judiciary, both sides agreed to implement a project with the Council of Europe to support the setting up in Russia of an appeal system for criminal and civil court cases. There is also agreement to strengthen contacts among the EU and Russian legal professions, starting with a study visit of the Russian Lawyers Association to EU institutions in the near future.

In the priority area of promoting people-to-people links, it was agreed to continue existing higher education cooperation and youth exchange programmes. The coordinators welcome the contribution of civil society of the EU and Russia to the development of the Partnership and note the importance of developing exchanges between them. The coordinators note the initiative of the EU-Russia Roundtable of Industrialists (IRT), which is planning expert seminars and business circles to prepare joint recommendations in order to promote practical cooperation.

Overall, the coordinators note with satisfaction the acceleration of cooperation based on the Common Spaces and for mutual benefit, and look forward to further joint work.

The coordinators agreed to keep EU and Russian leaders informed about progress and results achieved.

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