



FORUM NEWS

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The global economic crisis revealed that the interdependency of economies has become so complex that only common efforts based on cooperation and mutual trust may open up an opportunity for defeating the crisis.

Russia remains one of the key partners for particular EU member states within the framework of the political and economic project run by the EU countries. On the other hand, the EU, both as the Community and as particular nations, is one of the most significant vectors of the Russia's international activity. How much are the EU states and Russia prepared to continue the cooperation? Will the collaboration between the EU and Russia be developed through bilateral efforts or will it be cultivated within the framework of the Brussels – Moscow relationship? How is the global crisis going to affect the EU-Russia cooperation?

The aforesaid issues will be touched upon during the fifth Europe-Russia Economic Forum, which is to be held in Bucharest. The event is supported by and held under the official patronage of Traian Basescu, President of Romania.

Zygmunt Berdychowski



Zygmunt Berdychowski
Chairman of the Programme Council of the Economic Forum

V Europe-Russia Economic Forum

Bucharest, 25–27 May 2009



Traian Basescu

ROMANIA



PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL SECURITY DEPARTMENT

▲ President of Romania
Official patronage

One year after the NATO Summit in Bucharest, it is an honor and a privilege for Romania to host another high-level event, aimed at ensuring an enhanced cooperation between Europe and the Russian Federation.

In an increasingly interdependent world, the 5th Europe-Russia Economic Forum provides an excellent opportunity to identify and explore those common interests, since Russia is one of the most important partners of European Union.

Therefore, I believe that such kind of opportunity cannot be missed, and we are ready to welcome all of you soon in Romania.

P r o g r a m m e

Sessions

Palace of Parliament

Plenary session

EU-Russia: Towards Partnership

Debates

- EU and Russia: Common Challenges in Global Politics
- Foreign Direct Investments in CEE Region
- Russian and EU's Financial Markets. Possible Directions of Development
- European Security Architecture and Russia's New Role in Enhancing a Cooperative Approach
- USA-EU-Russia:

Common Interests in the Post-Soviet Space

- Media Debate: Democracy and Media
- Black Sea Region in European Politics
- EU Energy Security: Is Russia a Reliable Partner or a Risk Factor?
- EU-Russia: Christian Values as a Common Dimension of Social-Cultural Space
- Approaches to Democracy: Universal and National Traditions
- Business Diplomacy: Economy as a Stability Factor in Political Relations

Participants

The Forum will be attended by 250 participants, first and foremost, from Russia and the European

Union: representatives of the political and economic circles, science, chief analytical centres and international organizations.

Report

On the first day of the Forum, the guests will have an opportunity to participate in the presentation of the publication *Russia 2008. Report on Transformation*, which provides an analysis of the economic and political situation in Russia. The report was prepared by a team of experts of the Economic Forum under the leadership of Konstantin Simonov, Director of the Centre for Current Politics from Moscow.



Giorgio Napolitano

▲ President of Italy; entering the meeting room of IV Europe-Russia Economic Forum in Rome

Europe-Russia Economic Forum

History Sheet ...

So far, we have managed to invite Russians, their neighbours and the European Union states to participate in a common discussion four times. This time, they will meet in Bucharest.

Europe-Russia Economic Forum is a special event organized within the framework of the annually held Economic Forum in Krynica, which will be run 19th time this year.

Europe-Russia Forum is participated by distinguished representatives of public life, among them presidents of Italy and Lithuania, Chancellor of Austria, Prime Ministers of Lithuania and the Czech Republic.

The Forum aims at open discussion and development of the finest conditions for holding a dialogue between the EU and Russia in order to avoid building new walls and let the cooperation and partnership redefine the spirit of European and Russian relations. The most frequently repeated word during Europe-Russia Forum debates is "partnership". In the opinion of the Forum participants, it is the partnership that

2005 – Krynica

2006 – Vilnius

2007 – Vienna

2008 – Rome

2009 – Bucharest

should underlie the relations between EU and Russia.

During subsequent editions of the Forum, the attendants have had an opportunity to get familiar with the publication prepared by experts of the Economic Forum, exclusively for this event – „Russia. Report on Transformation“. The report provides the source of essential information and the basis for preparation of the forecast of the Russia's development in the nearest future. The most recent report proves that one may speak of „energizing“ of the Russian foreign policy.

Leonid Drachevsky

Vice-President of RAO UES, Russia ▶

The only possible type of EU-Russia relations is the partnership. Confrontation is an unfamiliar word, which is not used in the context of EU-Russia relationships. Direct and open dialogue is the main tool fostering achievement of fruitful cooperation in many areas.



Plenary session: „Europe-Russia: Prospects for Cooperation“ III Europe-Russia Economic Forum in Vienna. The Russian press commented on the event: “While the Russia Statesmen failed to go to London to participate in the Russian Forum, Russian political scientists and some deputies of the State Duma came to Vienna to attend the Europe-Russia Economic Forum”.



Alfred Gusenbauer

▶ Chancellor of Austria

We eagerly persist in analyzing the situation in Russia through the prism of USSR decline; however, this perspective is not sufficient today.



Mirek Topolanek

▶ Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

The EU should not stop exploiting and searching for various sources and routes of energy supply. Abandonment of the search would be a major mistake



Pierre Lellouche

▶ President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, France

We may take the risk and invite Russia to Europe and the Atlantic Alliance.



Gediminas Kirkilas

▶ Prime Minister of Lithuania

Lithuania believes in the concept of "Solidarity" which unites all the European Union member states. Only then, the respect for the interests of the entire EU and its particular members may be ensured.



Sergey Yastrzhembsky

▶ Representative of the President of Russia for the EU affairs

We would like to develop our relations in the normal course of action. However, we fear that the EU is not prepared for it.

Volker Rühle

▶ Former Minister of Defence, Germany

The EU and Russia need comprehensive cooperation. It is worth analyzing the mutual significance of the EU and Russia as strategic partners.

Valdas Adamkus

▶ President of Lithuania

The true strategic partnership between Russia and EU should be based not only on the shared interests but also on common values and commitments regarding the human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law.



■ Professor Alan Riley

The author of the report on the northern gas pipeline, prepared on the request of the European Parliament

I doubt if such an event as Europe-Russia Economic Forum, with all its atmosphere, could be organized in London.