



4th Europe-Russia Economic Forum

Rome, May 14-16th, 2008

Under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic
Giorgio Napolitano

Under the Patronage of the Italian Foreign Ministry

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Wednesday, May 14th

18:00 Welcome Address to the Participants by:

Mr Zygmunt Berdychowski, Chairman of the Economic Forum Program Council
Mr Paolo Magri, Director of the ISPI

Presentation of the Economic Forum “Russia 2007. Report on Transformation” with the editor Konstantin Simonov, President of the Centre for Current Politics and General Director of the National Energy Security Fund.

*** 20:30 BUFFET DINNER**

Venue : Hotel Columbus, Via della Conciliazione 33

Thursday, May 15th

**Venue: Palazzo Salviati, Centre for Defence Higher Studies (CASD)
Piazza della Rovere 83**

08:30 – 09:00

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

09:00 – 09:30

INAUGURATION AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

09:30 – 11:00

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Europe and Russia: Partnership, Coexistence, Confrontation ?

A key priority of the European Union is to build a strong strategic partnership with Russia based on a solid foundation of mutual respect. The panel will address all the major aspects in the EU-Russia relationship: security and strategic dimension of mutual relations, the EU-Russia relations in energy security and business and economic aspects of the EU-Russia relations.

11:00 – 11:15

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AND COFFEE BREAK

11:15 –12:45

DISCUSSION PANEL

Russian Political Outlook after the Presidential Elections

Russia's next Presidential elections have been a subject of much speculation and debate as the 2007 parliamentary elections. This panel will take an inside look into the various forces and the outcomes of each election on the political and economic future of the country.

12:45 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 15:45

DISCUSSION PANEL

EU-Russia: Building a Strategic Partnership

Russia is the EU's largest neighbour, brought even closer by the 2004 enlargement. Strengthening the strategic partnership with Russia will continue to constitute a priority for the upcoming Presidencies, particularly in terms of a more effective EU-Russia energy dialogue in the framework of the successor to the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement and implementing the common area of freedom, security and justice. Is there any chance today to develop a new common paradigm for the relationship with Russia, based on stable rules, transparency and consensus?

15:45 – 16:00

COFFEE BREAK

16:00 – 17:30

DISCUSSION PANEL

Russia's Role in World Politics

Russia is a key actor in the UN Security Council and a key ally to combat new security threats, as terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, pollution, crime, illegal migration and trafficking. But what drives Russian foreign policy nowadays? How will Russian foreign policy evolve in the years ahead? Which way will Russia, still struggling with the fragility of its economic success, choose to face in international relations?

16:00 – 17:30

DISCUSSION PANEL (IN PARALLEL)

Christian Values of European civilization : Views from the East and from the West

The intertwined notions of religion and culture have shaped the development of European civilization. The juxtaposition of the so-called Western Christian culture against the Eastern Orthodox culture has been counterproductive, and contributed to the fragmentation of Europe's potential. Europe's borders should be considered as fixed by history more than geography. Even better, they are cultural: Europe is, above all, a system of values.

*** EVENING RECEPTION**

Friday, May 16th

09:00 – 10:30

DISCUSSION PANEL

Foreign Direct Investment: Russia's Inward & Outward Investment Profiles

This panel will explore various aspects of FDI, including motivations for undertaking investment, drivers and determinants of location choices and entry mode decisions. Is Russian as attractive a market as China or India? Why international investors generally misjudge the Russian market? Where do foreign investors fit into the Russian economy? What is driving outward investment by Russian companies? How will Russian outward investment change over the coming years? Which sectors and countries will attract most Russian interest? Which role do factors such as diversification of risk and access to natural resources and capital play in outbound expansion strategies? What impact have Russian companies had on the companies they have acquired? Reforming the Russian banking system: progress and prospects. Which is the role of international and Russian financial institutions?

09:00 – 10:30

DISCUSSION PANEL (IN PARALLEL)

European Energy Policy and Security of Supply

Europe is a large energy importing region and destined to remain so for the foreseeable future. Ensuring the security of its energy supplies is principally hindered by two issues: first, the lack of a sustainable policy trade-off between the competing objectives of security of energy supply, competitiveness and environmental protection; second, a clear understanding that security of supply for an energy importing region demands first and foremost the multilateral strengthening of the global energy trading system. The panel will tackle trends in EU energy relations with Russia and the CIS, strategies and issues affecting cross-border transactions and development strategies to enhance relations with key transit states.

10:15 – 10:30

COFFEE BREAK

10:30 – 12:00

DISCUSSION PANEL

Beyond Natural Resources: Russia's long term Economic Prospects

Since the recent nadir in its fortunes, Russia's gross domestic product has expanded. Quickly recovered thanks to surging oil and gas revenues, the country has collected the third largest holdings in the world behind China and Japan. Russia's companies have expanded their foreign assets by 2.5 times to almost \$60bn over the past two years. Its stock market has boomed. Russia's confidence and influence in the world have visibly swollen. How should the rest of the world deal with this resurgent Russia? Is this achievement sustainable? Are Russian long term economic prospects still dependent on oil and gas?

12:00 – 12:15

COFFEE BREAK

12:15 – 13:45

DISCUSSION PANEL

Bilateral Business Relations and Industrial Cooperation Development

This panel brings together participants representing a broad cross-section of business sectors and official bodies of the EU, non-EU countries and Russia, in the field of energy, transport, telecommunications, information technology and space, financial services, construction and real estate. The focus will be on successful businesses seizing the opportunities in Russia, looking at pragmatic ways of strengthening bilateral business relations, especially through a more intensive and regular form of cooperation

and formulation of joint recommendations of business community to the international political leadership on expanding trade, investment and industrial co-operation.

12:15 – 13:45

DISCUSSION PANEL (IN PARALLEL)

The Developing EU-Russia Relationship in the Political and Security Field

The European Security Strategy defines Russia as a key player on geopolitical and security issues at global and regional level. Russia has indeed a significant influence in the EU Neighbourhood and Central Asia. The EU and Russia have agreed to reinforce their mutual efforts in the area of external security as they both have a particular responsibility for security and stability on the European continent and beyond. Besides, the NATO-Russia Council continues to cultivate long-term practical cooperation while engaging in constructive dialogue on daily political issues. The panel will examine the European dimension of Russian foreign and security policy and how the “Russian factor” influences European policies towards other post-soviet states.

13:45 – 14:00

CLOSING REMARKS

14:00– 15:30

LUNCH