



**RusCham**

THE RUSSIAN—EUROPEAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

YEAR IV \* NO. 11 & 12

⇒ MERRY CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL OUR MEMBERS AND  
PARTNERS

# RUSCHAM NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY ISSUE

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***Merry Christmas to All our Members and  
Partners,***

***We wish you peace in your homes and  
families.***

***Peace in your hearts.***

***We wish you successful year 2009.***

***Success in your personal  
and professional life.***



***Ruscham Team***



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THE RUSSIAN—EUROPEAN  
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## Little information about Russia

Russia is the EU's third biggest trade partner, with Russian supplies of oil and gas making up a large percentage of Russia's exports to Europe. The Ongoing cooperation is based on 4 specific policy areas.

These "common spaces", cover economic issues & the environment; Freedom, Security & Justice; External Security; and Research & Education, including cultural aspects.

The EU has in place a program of financial cooperation that has evolved over time to support the achievement of common objectives.

The EU and Russia co-operate on dealing with a number of challenges, both at international level, as well as in our common neighborhood. These include climate change, drug and human trafficking, organized crime, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, the Middle East Peace Process, and Iran.

The EU and Russia concluded a Partnership and Co-operation Agreement in 1994. The June 2008 Summit between EU and the Russian Federation saw the launch of negotiations on a new EU-Russia agreement. The EU and the Russian Federation have made a number of commitments to human rights and democratic standards, notably in the Council of Europe and the OSCE, and respect for these standards will need to be reflected.

The first round of negotiations took place in July 2008; following the Russia/Georgia conflict the EU postponed the second round pending withdrawal of Russian troops to positions held prior to August 7.



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## Common economic space

The EU and Russia agreed at the St. Petersburg Summit in May 2003 to create in the long-term a 'Common Economic Space'. A road map agreed in 2005 sets out objectives and areas for cooperation for the short and medium-term. Fourteen dialogues between the EU and Russia covering most economic sectors have so far been established. They include a number of regulatory dialogues which aim at promoting the gradual approximation of legislation. Three meetings of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Councils at ministerial level have been held on environment, transport and energy in 2006. This framework is complemented by sectoral agreements between both sides.

Energy is a very important element in the EU-Russia relationship. This relationship can be best characterised as mutual interdependence of supply, demand, investment and know-how.

Russia is the world's largest producer and exporter of natural gas and, together with Saudi Arabia, also the largest producer and exporter of oil. Russia possesses more than 20% of the world's known gas reserves and 5% of proven oil reserves. The share of the energy and metals sector in the Russian economy is around 20% while it employs only 2% of the total labour force.

There is a strong mutual interest in a closer energy partnership between the EU and Russia – one that offers security and predictability for both sides. The energy that the EU buys from Russia contributes very significantly to Russia's current economic growth and the improved living conditions of its population. In turn, the stable flow of reasonably priced energy remains an important motor for Europe's economic growth. Ultimately, our citizens and businesses alike need to be provided with safe, reasonably priced energy.



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## Freedom, security and justice

The EU and Russia agreed at the St. Petersburg Summit of May 2003 to create in the long-term a 'Common Space on Freedom, Security and Justice'. A road map agreed in 2005 sets out the objectives and areas for cooperation in the short and medium term. Its gradual development takes place in the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. Biannual meetings of the EU Troika (EU Presidency together with incoming Presidency, Council and Commission) with the Russian counterparts at ministerial level monitor the overall implementation of this Common Space.

### EU Policy Aims

Cooperation in this area has become a key component in the development of a strategic partnership with Russia. The scope of our cooperation has gained tremendous importance with the expansion of our common borders after the last enlargements of the EU. Our cooperation contributes to the objective of building a new Europe without dividing lines and facilitating travel between all Europeans while creating conditions for effectively fighting illegal migration. Moreover, the EU has a considerable interest in strengthening cooperation with Russia by jointly addressing common challenges such as organised crime, terrorism and other illegal activities of cross-border nature. Our cooperation, carried out on the basis of common values such as democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, must reflect the necessary balance between Security, on the one hand, and Justice and Freedom, on the other.

Read more about Freedom, security and justice: [http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/en/p\\_223.htm](http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu/en/p_223.htm).

### Human Rights

With democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law an essential element of EU-Russia relations, it is only natural that these issues are regularly discussed at all levels.



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In 2005 regular, six-monthly EU-Russia human rights consultations were established. They have provided for a substantial dialogue on human rights issues in Russia and the EU and on EU-Russian cooperation on human rights issues in international fora. The EU also maintains a regular dialogue with both Russian and international NGOs on human rights issues.

Issues that the EU raises with Russia in the human rights consultations include: the human rights situation in Chechnya and the rest of the North Caucasus, including torture and ill-treatment; freedom of expression and assembly, including freedom of the media; the situation of civil society in Russia, notably in light of the laws on NGOs and extremist activities; the functioning of the judiciary, including independence issues; the observation of human rights standards by law enforcement officials; racism and xenophobia; legislation relating to elections. For its part the Russian side raises matters of concern to it in developments inside the EU.

The EU has supported the development of democracy, the protection of human rights and the development of a healthy civil society in Russia notably through the [European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights \(EIDHR\)](#). This has enabled the EU to work with NGOs and partners as for example the Council of Europe in fields such as: penal reform; improving the capacity of lawyers and law enforcement officials to apply the European Convention on Human Rights; combating human rights violations in the North Caucasus; human rights of conscripts in the armed forces; promoting children's rights; promoting the rights of indigenous peoples.



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The EU and Russia have agreed to reinforce their cooperation in the area of external security as they both have a particular responsibility for security and stability on the European continent and beyond.

## EU Policy Aims

There are 5 priority areas for enhancing EU-Russia cooperation:

- Strengthening dialogue and cooperation on the international scene
- The fight against terrorism
- Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, strengthening export control regimes and disarmament
- Cooperation in crisis management
- Cooperation in the field of civil protection

## EU Strategy

The EU and Russia work to strengthen the roles of the United Nations, OSCE and Council of Europe (CoE) in building an international order based on effective multilateralism. An extensive and ever more operational political dialogue characterises EU-Russia relations (see above).

The EU has a strong interest in engaging Russia in strengthening stability on the European continent, notably in regions adjacent to EU and Russian borders – our common neighbourhood. The regional conflicts in Moldova (Transnistria) and the South Caucasus (Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh) are regularly discussed. The EU also stresses the importance of promoting democracy in Belarus. These discussions simultaneously grant both partners the opportunity to voice a frank exchange of views regarding the situation in the common neighbourhood and a platform to seek common solutions.

The EU and Russia seek to strengthen their cooperation in all relevant international and regional fora in the fight against terrorism, notably by promoting and developing the relevant conventions and instruments in the UN, OSCE and Council of Europe. The EU in particular seeks an early finalisation of the UN Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism.



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In the area of non-proliferation, export controls and disarmament, a major objective of the EU and Russia is to promote the universal adherence to and greater effectiveness of the relevant international instruments. A particular EU concern at present is to seek Russian support for the accession of all EU Member States to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Russia is seeking to join the Australia Group (Biological and Chemical Weapons Control).

## Research and development, education, culture

The EU and Russia have a strong interest to work together to foster political, social and economic stability in Russia, in the region and worldwide. Cooperation in research and development, education and culture should contribute to this objective.

### EU Policy Aims

Increased cooperation in the field of research and development, education and culture will contribute to increased cooperation between institutions and people working on common challenges, better knowledge of differing history and culture and more contacts among people, particularly the young.

### EU Strategy

At the St. Petersburg Summit in May 2003, the EU and Russia agreed to set up a 'Common Space of Research and Education, Including Cultural Aspects'.

In the area of research and development the objective is to enhance EU-Russia cooperation in mutually agreed priority fields and create favourable conditions, corresponding to the interests of both parties, aimed at:

- structuring a knowledge-based society in the EU and Russia;
- promoting a high rate of competitiveness and economic growth by modernization of the national economies and implementation of advanced scientific achievements;



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- strengthening and optimizing the links between research and innovation;
- maintaining small and medium size entrepreneurship in the field of research and innovation.

In the area of education the objective is to encourage integration and closer cooperation within the framework of the new European Higher Education Area in accordance with the main provisions of the Bologna Process, aiming in particular at:

- adopting comparable higher education degrees;
- adopting a two-tier “bachelor-master” and as soon as possible a three-tier “bachelor-master-doctorate” education system;
- introducing a credit system, aimed at practicing the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) to check the volume of the taught subjects;
- promoting academic mobility;
- cooperating in the provision of learning quality;
- introducing integrated curricula at higher education institutions;
- promoting life-long learning;
- modifying the management of higher education institutions with a view to adapting students learning to labour market changes;
- increasing the attractiveness of the higher education systems in Russia and in the EU.

In the area of culture there are three objectives:

- to promote a structured approach to cultural cooperation between the enlarged EU and Russia, to foster the creativity and mobility of artists, public access to culture, the dissemination of art and culture, intercultural dialogue and knowledge of the history and cultural heritage of the peoples of Europe.
- to strengthen and enhance the European identity on the basis of common values, including freedom of expression, democratic functioning of the media, respect of human rights including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity as a basis of vitality of civil society in Europe without dividing lines.
- to develop cooperation between the cultural industries of the EU and Russia in order to increase both their cultural and economic impact.



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## Follow up of the EU-Russia Summit

The French Presidency has chosen Nice, a city which has strong historical ties to Russia, to host the 22nd EU-Russia Summit.

Nicolas Sarkozy, the current President of the European Council and José Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, welcomed Dmitri Medvedev, the President of the Russian Federation to Nice on 14 November 2008 for the EU-Russia summit, in the presence of the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner and foreign affairs ministers, Sergei Lavrov and Bernard Kouchner.

The discussions focused mainly on Georgia, pan-European security and the international financial crisis.

With regard to Georgia, the European Union noted that Russia had fulfilled a very large part of its commitments: the ceasefire, the withdrawal, for the most part, the deployment of observers, and the beginning of international talks in Geneva. President Sarkozy emphasised the need for making progress with regard to the withdrawal of Russian forces from two specific areas - the Akhgori valley in South Ossetia and the village of Perevi in west Ossetia. The European Union saluted the Russian initiatives towards peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh and encouraged the Russian Federation to draw inspiration from this positive action in dealing with the issue of Abkhazia and Ossetia. President Medvedev thanked the Europeans and the French President in particular for their participation in finding solutions for resolving the conflict.

On the issue of pan-European security, the European Union expressed its concern with regard to President Medvedev's speech in Berlin and his statements on the potential deployment of Russian missiles, stating that no missiles should be deployed until the new geopolitical conditions of pan-European security had been discussed.



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President Sarkozy proposed holding a meeting in mid-2009, perhaps in the framework of the OSCE, to lay the foundations of what could be the future security of Europe. The President of the European Council emphasised the importance of involving the United States in this process, indicating that the NATO summit being held in April in Kehl and Strasbourg would be a perfect opportunity to prepare a summit on these issues.

With regard to the international financial crisis, President Sarkozy appraised the Russian proposals to be of high quality on the technical, financial and economic fronts. President Medvedev noted that the Russian and European positions were practically the same, underlining that the expected the Washington summit of 15 November to deliver a response that was adequate and complete, serious solutions and a programme for action.



President Sarkozy also stated his conviction that it was in the joint interests of the Russian Federation and Europe to work on the perspective of a common economic area, allowing the creation of interdependencies and common interests, thus banishing any form of confrontation. President Medvedev noted that trade between the European Union and Russia was increasing, and now represented over 50% of Russia's foreign trade.



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The European Union asked the Russian Federation to be very open in discussions with the Baltic countries, Lithuania in particular, with regard to the energy supply in the winter of 2008-2009. This request was greeted with a lot of openness by President Medvedev, indicated President Sarkozy.

President Barroso also proposed pursuing negotiations on the partnership agreement between the European Union and Russia and recalled the European Commission's support for Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation. He emphasised the importance of intensifying dialogue on energy, recalling that this summit had allowed clarification on certain important principles in that area, and welcomed the Russian decision to postpone increasing the export rights on certain forestry products.



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## EU-RUSSIA RELATIONS

### What is the status?

The Extraordinary European Council September 2008, requested the Council, to conduct a careful, in-depth examination of the various aspects of EU-Russia relations. This review is to be conducted in the run-up to the EU-Russia Summit scheduled for November 2008, and will be discussed at the GAERC in November with the GAERC having taken stock of developments in the Georgian-Russian conflict.

Current reflection takes place against a backdrop of developments that have cast a serious shadow over the EU Russia relationship: the violation of Georgia's territorial integrity with the use of force, and Russia's unilateral recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia remain unacceptable, while the principles of foreign policy recently articulated including the resurgence of spheres of influence, is a cause for concern.

The EU can approach its relationship with Russia with a certain confidence. Economically, Russia needs the EU. The EU is an important market for its exports of raw materials, notably energy, and Russia would like to improve the conditions for trade in nuclear materials. The recent financial crisis has underlined how acutely Russia needs to modernize and diversify its economy. The EU is the natural partner for this process, and is the main source of its foreign investments. Russia desires engagement with the EU for its own purposes, for example to achieve visa abolition or association to the EC R&D Framework Program.

In the light of the above, the aim of this review is to consider the complex web of overlapping and shared interests in the EU-Russia relationship, and to make a sober assessment of where the EU's *own* interests now lie. The scope for pursuing and widening these interests has been established in the recently-agreed mandate to open negotiations on a successor agreement to the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA), and, once the conditions are met, negotiation of a Free Trade agreement.



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The attached working document details the development of the EU Russia partnership over the last few years, and the opportunities and challenges we face in the future.

EU-Russia relations are based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in force since 1997, which was further complemented by the Four Common Spaces in 2005. This results in an institutional framework which in many respects works well, particularly at political level through the Cooperation Council (now Permanent Partnership Council in Foreign Ministers' format).

## Short review of EU-Russia relations

*Trade and investment* between the EU and Russia are substantial and growing, and it is in our mutual interest that this trend should continue. Russia is our third most important trading partner and we see growth rates of up to 20% every year. Energy is a major factor, but impressive growth figures have also been seen in services.

Russia is an important emerging market on our doorstep that offers opportunities to EU enterprises. The EU is the major investor in Russia, accounting for 80% of cumulative foreign investment, giving us an important interest in the continuing development of the economy, which will need European investment even more in future, given Russia's quest for diversification and modernization. A significant share of the Russian foreign exchange reserves are held in euro, making Russia one of the largest holders of euro-denominated assets in the world. Russia has not been immune to the global financial crisis, and given our economic interdependence it is important to maintain an EU dialogue with Russia on unfolding developments.

The considerations noted above have led the EU to firmly support Russia's bid to join the World Trade Organization. The case for early WTO accession on viable commercial terms remains strong not least because of signs, in the agricultural and natural resource sectors, of greater protectionism. Certain ongoing trade disputes like those concerning Russia's export restrictions on wood require urgent solutions to avoid deterioration of already difficult trading conditions.



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EU-Russia interdependence in the *Energy* sector is a core element of the relationship. EU Member States are major buyers of energy products, and this is unlikely to change in the short term to medium term. The relationship is one of interdependence not dependence. Exports to the EU have made a major contribution to Russian growth rates. However, the EU and Russia interpret energy security and reciprocal market access differently. While Russia has been a reliable supplier of energy products, disputes with transit states, as well as insufficient upstream investment in the face of expanding demand, raise concern about future supply. A great deal of work is still needed to build up a genuine energy partnership based on the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty and notably transparency, reciprocity and non-discrimination. Cooperation is taking place under the Energy Dialogue and covers such broad issues as energy scenarios and strategies, market developments and energy efficiency. Important tools, such as the energy early warning mechanism could be further developed.

In the *Common Space on External Security*, political dialogue is frequent and takes place at many levels. The EU engages with Russia on Iran, the Middle East, Afghanistan, the Balkans and elsewhere as well as in international settings like the UN and the OSCE, with the aim of developing common views and approaches. Cooperation in the Middle East Peace Process and on non-proliferation in Iran has been positive. The EU and Russia have a common interest in the non-proliferation of WMD. Russia has recently contributed to the EU's ESDP mission in Chad/Central African Republic. Positions on Kosovo and the Common Neighbourhood remain farther apart, in particular after the events in Georgia. The EU should develop a common position on Russia's proposal for a new European security order.

The EU has a strong interest in continued efforts to improve cooperation in these areas in the years ahead. Russia is a key geopolitical actor, whose constructive involvement in international affairs is a necessary precondition for an effective international community.

There is an EU-Russia dialogue on regional policy; in the Kaliningrad region the Facilitated Transit Scheme between the region and the mainland has worked positively. Moreover, Russia has shown new interest in the revised Northern Dimension, where the Ministerial meeting of 27 October saw important advances and there is scope for including Arctic issues in the regular dialogue between the EU and Russia.



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**Human rights** are an area of concern. There is a general sense that there is a growing gap with regard to common commitments in the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The EU underlines to Russia the commitments it has entered into including in the PCA. Human rights consultations with Russia take place twice a year; while their impact remains relatively limited, the latest round took place in an open and constructive atmosphere. It is important to build on what has been achieved.

EU and Russian interests in the *Common Space on Justice, Freedom, and Security* often coincide. The EU/Russia Visa Facilitation Agreement, the first concluded by the EU and a third country, was designed to make life easier for travelers, including those from the EU itself. The Readmission Agreement makes an important contribution to fighting illegal migration. Greater cooperation in the area of Freedom, Security, and Justice is helping to tackle threats posed by challenges such as terrorism and organized crime. More generally, it is important that this cooperation is based on respect for human rights and the promotion of the rule of law.

Contacts between the citizens of EU and Russia are increasing. EU education exchange programs have expanded, as has research collaboration between scientists. Work should continue on expanding people-to-people contacts across the board. An expansion in contacts, as well as meeting specific goals in defined policy fields, contributes to improving mutual understanding and trust.

*The Common Space on Research, Education, Culture* is characterized by a strong mutual interest. Research co-operation is governed by the EC-Russia Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement (in force since 2004) which expires in 2009 – renewal is under preparation. Entities from the Russian Federation participate in all thematic and sub-programs of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program on Research and Development (FP7) with a Community contribution of some € 29 million. Further co-operation includes the Agreements for co-operation between Euratom and Russia in the fields of nuclear safety and controlled nuclear fusion, both concluded in 2002 for an initial period of 10 years. An important project is the European Studies Institute (ESI) in Moscow – co-financed by Russia and the EC. Cultural co-operation has started with the Kajaani process launched in 2006 with the first Culture PPC in October 2007.



**RusCham**

THE RUSSIAN—EUROPEAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

YEAR IV \* NO. 12

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DECEMBER 08

# RUSCHAM NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY ISSUE

[WWW.RUSCHAM.COM](http://WWW.RUSCHAM.COM)

Russia receives *Financial Assistance* from a range of EC financial instruments. The ENPI is aimed at supporting the implementation of the road maps of the Four Common Spaces and the Kaliningrad region. In a new and positive development, Russia has committed to contribute funding for seven European Neighborhood Instrument (ENPI) programs on cross border co-operation over the period 2007-2013.

## Next steps

The EU and Russia should be able to discuss areas of disagreement in an open and constructive manner. This is essential to a confident and mature partnership. We should improve our capacity to manage differences while advancing our common goals. The European Council has condemned Russia's unilateral decision to recognize the breakaway regions of Georgia and expressed grave concern about the disproportionate Russian reaction in the conflict. While remaining firm on our principles, and rejecting all use of force, it is in the EU's interest to engage with Russia in renewed efforts for the resolution of conflicts in our common neighborhood. The management of the conflict this summer and its aftermath is encouraging in this respect, as is the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the areas adjacent to South Ossetia and Abkhazia, while more remains to be done.

These negotiations should continue, first because this would allow the EU to pursue its own interests with Russia, and secondly because this is the best way to engage with Russia on the basis of a unified position. When the EU speaks with one voice, and acts as one, Russia takes notice and the EU is able to influence the course of events. The unanimously agreed mandate for the negotiations for the New EU-Russia Agreement provides us with an important instrument to pursue our objectives in a united way.

For these reasons it is the view of the Commission that the next negotiating sessions should be scheduled now. The GAERC of 10 November is an opportunity for Member States to reach a common understanding on the basis for the negotiations to proceed, against the background of the conclusions of the European Council of 1 September which postponed the negotiations.



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DECEMBER 08

# RUSCHAM NEWSLETTER

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It remains clear that in line with European Council conclusions the EU does not accept the status quo in Georgia. The Geneva process should continue its important work on the basis of the 12 August and 8 September Agreements addressing security and stability in the region as well as the return of Internally Displaced Persons and refugees, and the territorial integrity of Georgia should be restored. The review of EU/Russia relations should be an ongoing process. As already agreed the Commission and the Council should continue to discuss the general context of EU/Russia relations as the negotiations are pursued.



**Russian Standard** is an authorized Comprehensive Certification Center based in the USA and Europe and specializing in all types of mandatory and voluntary Russian certification and state product registration, ranging from nutritional supplements and foods to medical and oil equipment.

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### RUSSIAN / CIS CERTIFICATION & LICENSING

According to Russian Law, more than 60% of all products to be sold and/or used in the country require mandatory certification/licensing, i.e. they should be approved by relevant Russian authorities in terms of compliance to national standards. This concerns both locally produced and imported goods. Moreover, prior to construction of an industrial or civil site in the Russian territory, a number of approvals are required to undertake engineering, construction and other technical activities.

Below you will find the list of product and activity categories subject to mandatory Russian approval:

- Products, services and tools assuring safety for life and health of consumers (e.g. foodstuff, drugs, textiles, electrical appliances, related equipment etc);
- Alcoholic products and equipment for their production;
- Production sites;
- Technical installations at dangerous production sites (e.g. pressure vessels, lifting and hoisting machines, pumps, equipment for mining, petrochemical, oil & gas, metallurgical and other industries);
- Fire-related products;
- Livestock;
- Products assuring safety for life and health of animals (feed, vaccines etc);
- Pesticides and agrochemicals;
- Products and services containing results of genetic engineering activity;
- Energy-consuming products and energy resources;
- Telecommunication equipment, tools and services;
- Information systems, databases and tools to protect them;
- Transportation units, products and services;
- Aerospace machinery;
- Geodesic, cartographical and topographical products;
- Forestry raw materials;
- Gas and coal;
- Nuclear industry products and technologies;
- Arms.



**Russian Standard** will help you to obtain on of the following certificates:

- **Sanitary-Epidemiological Conclusion Certificate** (formerly known as Hygienic Certificate) for products in contact with human body;
- **GOST R Declaration of Conformity** for some consumer goods and industrial instrumentation;
- **Certificate of State Product Registration** for new foodstuff and some other goods presenting a potential danger for human beings;
- **GOST R Pattern Approval Certificate** for measuring instruments;





- **GOST R Ex-Proof Certificate** for explosion-proof equipment and materials;
- **Fire Safety Certificate** for flammable or fire extinguishing products;
- **Design Registration at Rostekhnadzor** for hazardous industrial sites
- **VNIIS Exemption Letter** for products that are not subject to mandatory GOST R certification. **Telecom Type Approval Certificate** for telecommunications equipment.

## Registration and Certification of medical equipment, devices and materials

As in most countries, in Russia a medical product can be admitted to the domestic market only when and if it has been found in conformity with technical and medical safety regulations pertaining to this particular product.

Assessment of conformity of medical equipment and products to existing safety standards is carried out by the Russian Health Ministry and Federal State Scientific Certification Center for Medical Products. If found in conformity, the product gets entered in the Federal Registry, and the applicant receives the "Registration" license.

Russian Standard Ltd. handles all interaction with the Russian authorities on behalf of the exporter/manufacturer of medical products, makes sure that the submitted dossiers are complete, and the processing is done without delays.

For medical devices and materials, along with the registration, Russian regulations require both GOST-R and Hygienic certification.

We also will help you with NUTRACEUTICALS, when in accordance with the Russian legislation, all food (nutritional, dietary) supplements, also known as biologically active supplements, are subject to mandatory State Registration by the Russian Ministry of Health.

We invite you visit our web site [www.rosstandard.com](http://www.rosstandard.com) for more information or contact us directly:

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**P.O. Box 58**, 83008 Bratislava 38, Slovakia  
Telephone: +421 (0) 907 167 714

[mail@rosstandard-europe.com](mailto:mail@rosstandard-europe.com)

...

## CERTIFICATION GLOSSARY.:

**100 Percent Testing:** a procedure when each individual product is tested to determine if it meets the designated standard. If the testing procedures are adequate, the procedure provides the highest possible level of assurance that the product conforms to a particular standard.

**Accreditation:** a procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks. Accreditation means that a body has been evaluated in accordance with national standards of the Russian Federation and has been found competent and therefore is authorized to certify companies which have successfully demonstrated compliance to the GOST R Certification System.



**Audit-testing** refers to a procedure when test samples are selected at random from the marketplace.

For more information please visit [www.rosstandard.com](http://www.rosstandard.com)





## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### February 3-5, 2009 :

11th International Exhibition and Conference CSTB-2009 ([www.cstb.ru/en/cstb](http://www.cstb.ru/en/cstb))

Place of event: Moscow, Russia

### February 3-6, 2009:

14th International Forum & Exhibition "Security and Safety Technologies" ([www.tbforum.ru/eng](http://www.tbforum.ru/eng))

Place of event: Moscow, Russia

### February 9-13, 2009:

16th International Exhibition PRODEXPO-2009 ([www.prod-expo.ru/en](http://www.prod-expo.ru/en))

Place of event: The Expocenter, Moscow

## BUSINESS NEWS TICKER



Gazprom Neft more than replaced the crude it produced last year as it increased exploration and acquired fields. Gazprom Neft added 148 million tons of reserves not counting acquisitions and 23 million tons by winning licenses at auctions, the producer said in a statement. The reserves are under Russian standards.

...

Fresh from a bitter dispute with Western oil companies over a Caspian oil field, Kazakhstan wants to build up its weight further in its energy sector, the President Nursultan Nazarbayev said. The country reinforced its increasingly assertive role in oil diplomacy last month when it doubled its stake in the huge Kashagan oil field and stripped Italy's Eni of its leading role in the world's biggest oil find in three decades. Its actions have alarmed foreign investors, who see them as part of the growing global

trend of resource nationalism. In his annual state-of-the-nation address, Nazarbayev called on the state to play a more active role in energy matters.

...

Russia and India edged closer to a multibillion-dollar nuclear deal to build four more reactors in southern India that has been delayed because of international restrictions against New Delhi. Russia and India have been working for more than a year on a deal that will allow Russia build the reactors at the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

...

Alkogolniye Zavody Gross, maker of Slavyanskaya and Russian Diamond vodka, plans an initial public offering, possibly by late next year, president and co-owner Alexander Bezuglov said. The company will merge its distilleries into one entity and may sell shares at the end of 2009 or the



beginning of 2010.

...

Russia's Economic Development and Trade Ministry has proposed abolishing the value added tax (VAT) on the exports of products made from imported materials and components, Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister Andrei Belousov said. Belousov said, however, that the Economic Development and Trade Ministry had disagreements with the Finance Ministry on the issue.

...

The Russian government will temporarily ban wheat exports to countries with which Russia signed agreements on the creation of a customs union, the government's press service said. In January, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan signed agreements to set up a customs union. The agreements stipulate a common policy in customs tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers. In addition to those countries, the customs union is expected to eventually include the other countries of the Eurasian Economic Community, or EurAsEc: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.



kistan and Uzbekistan. Starting January 29, the Russian government increased the export duty on wheat to 40% from the current 10% until April 30. The move was aimed at directing all grain to the domestic market and putting downward pressure on grain prices.

...

Gazprom signed an agreement with France's Total and Norway's StatoilHydro to create a company charged with the first phase of developing the vast and remote Shtokman natural gas field. Both new partners last year signed framework agreements for project participation with Gazprom, and the new agreement represents a step forward in extracting gas from the huge field under the Arctic waters off the country's northwest coast. Total and StatoilHydro will have shares of 25 and 24 percent in the company respectively, with Gazprom holding 51 percent. Shtokman is to be the main source of gas for the Nord Stream pipeline, which will take gas to Germany and other European countries. It is also expected to produce liquefied natural gas that will be exported to various countries, including the United States. Plans are for gas to start flowing from Shtokman in 2013. Tapping the field is technically daunting, and StatoilHydro's expensive experience at developing remote offshore fields was seen as key to the project's success. The firm developed Snohvit, the first offshore field in the Barents Sea.

...

A Russian-American joint venture has signed a contract to orbit another satellite for the United Arab Emirates by a Russian Proton-M carrier rocket, the Khrunichev State Research and Production Center said. Proton-M launch services are provided by Russian-

American joint venture International Launch Services (ILS), owned by the Khrunichev Center, RSC Energia, and U.S. firm Space Transport Inc. The company received \$1.5 billion in new launch orders in 2007.

...

Power Machines, Russia's leading heavy machinery manufacturer, will supply \$72 mln of equipment to a thermal power plant being built in Croatia, the plant's general contractor said. Power Machines and Russian state-controlled power plant builder Technopromexport signed on Tuesday a contract under which the heavy industry manufacturer will deliver power equipment for the Sisak-3 thermal power plant, located some 50 km from Zagreb, Croatia's capital. Under the contract, Power Machines will deliver equipment in 2009 while the thermal power plant will be launched in the second quarter of 2010. Established in 2000, Power Machines is involved in the maintenance and modernization of equipment for steam, nuclear, hydro, and gas turbine power plants.

...

Norway's leading ship-owner Odfjell has cancelled its contract with Russia's Sevmash shipyard for the construction of 12 tankers. The decision was due to serious delays in construction and continued price increases. Odfjell intends to claim full compensation for its costs and losses over "massive" contract breaches by the yard. The \$500 mln contract was signed in 2004 and was billed as a historic deal in Norwegian-Russian economic relations. The contract price subse-



quently increased to \$544 mln.

...

Russian Railways (RZD), a state-controlled monopoly, expects to close a deal on railway construction in Algeria in late March. Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced that RZD had won a tender to construct a railroad in the country. Under the agreement, the state-controlled monopoly will rebuild and modernize 14 suburban stations, dismantle over 58.5 km of outdated railway tracks and lay 95 km of the new ones. The project also envisages the construction of 34 auxiliary facilities, a 1.7-km tunnel and the Algerian Railways logistics control center.

...

Russia's largest gold producer Polyus Gold announced it would start developing alluvial gold fields in East Siberia's Irkutsk Region, following tender results. Polyus Gold's subsidiary Lenzoloto was declared the winner of the tenders to develop five alluvial gold deposits in the Bodaibo area of the Irkutsk Region, with total reserves of 1.3 metric tons of gold, the company said in a statement. "The expansion of the company's mineral base is an integral part of the program, which Polyus Gold is implementing to build up alluvial gold production," Yevgeny Ivanov, Polyus's general director said. The company's alluvial gold output increased from 5.3 metric tons in 2006 to 5.6 metric tons in 2007. ■





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In support of the RusCham's core activities, which actively work to improve the business environment for businesses in Russia and Europe, the Russian—European Chamber of Commerce also provides valuable business networking opportunities for members.

Russian—European Chamber of Commerce serves as a center for assistance and information, keeps members apprised of rapidly evolving government laws and regulations, and organizes meetings for representatives of member businesses.

RusCham is an information center that gives much-needed information and contacts to visiting delegations, fosters co-operation between potential investors and established businesses, and encourages businesses to take advantage of business opportunities in the Russian Federation or Europe.

Also RusCham is enabling business representatives to air their grievances and create a common agenda of needs and concerns, to act as one voice in presenting that agenda to the governments and local business communities enable member businesses to collectively lobby for legislative and regulatory changes.

The Chamber's most important assets are its members. They are our clients, our workforce and our strength. Our mission is to promote the development of commercial relations between the Russian Federation, EU and the international community.

RusCham membership is made up of enterprises and entrepreneurs from the member states of the European Union (EU) and the Russian Federation, which have business activities with and in the Russian Federation, CIS and Europe. These members determine the overall strategy and policies of the organization.

To become a member of RusCham please send an e-mail to [mail@ruscham.com](mailto:mail@ruscham.com) or contact us at: +421 907 167 714.

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