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ELECTIONS IN RUSSIA: MEDVEDEV REVEALS ECONOMIC PLAN

The favourite to become Russia's next President, Dmitry Medvedev, says his most important goal if elected will be to harmonise freedom with the rule of law. The First Deputy Prime Minister revealed his four-year economic development plan at a forum in Russia's city of Krasnoyarsk.



DOTTING THE I'S

Medvedev focused on four major areas for Russia to develop in the next four years – institutions, infrastructure, innovation and investment.

“A week ago the president named the main goal for develop-

ment of the country to the year 2020. That's the construction of the society which increases living standards and gives equal opportunities for one's talents and capabilities. Besides, it's the development of an economy of the innovation type, as well as a radical increase of its effectiveness and also the forming of the wide middle class. These orientations are very ambitious but in my view very realistic,” said Medvedev.

The Presidential hopeful once again named corruption as “the most serious disease” of Russian society and called for a national anti-corruption plan to be drawn up. First of all, “one has to start from himself – officials, policemen, judges”, which is key for “citizens feeling masters of their country” and for defending “their honour, dignity and safety”.

FAITHFUL TO PUTIN POLICY

Medvedev said ploughing ahead with legal and tax reforms, fighting against corruption and lowering the





role of state in the economy would become his priorities, should he take over the Kremlin.

He vowed to stay faithful to President Putin's economic policy.

Indeed, there are plenty of reasons to stick with it. Russia has become the world's seventh largest economy, with annual growth topping 6.5 percent during Putin's tenure.

Medvedev boasted of accumulating hard-currency reserves, settling foreign debt and slashing poverty. But as president, he would face several economic challenges, according to Russia's Finance Minister Aleksey Kudrin:

"It's first and foremost the legal system, the ability to defend private property rights. I believe that making these issues a priority is perfectly justified. We have not really succeeded in solving this problem during Putin's presidency".

MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Economists warn Russia is still highly vulnerable to commodity-price fluctuations. To overcome that, Medvedev proposed investing in what he says is Russia's most precious resource: its people.

"At this stage of historical development, the decisive factor of success is the behaviour of each and every citizen, the lifestyle of every family, the liberty of self-realisation. And let me repeat the words of the president, investment in human resources is our long-term national priority," Medvedev stated.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY REACTION

The business community called the plan timely and detailed.

"We're moving from the econ-

omy of raw materials and oil, the economy where the government was mostly commanding, to that of the private initiative, competition and innovation," Boris Titov, Chairman of All-Russia Business Forum, noted.

Tom Mundy, equity strategist from Renaissance Capital, says the key issues Medvedev touched on could lead to increased investment.

"At the moment we are dealing only with rhetoric because it is too early to say whether or not any of what Dmitry Medvedev talks about is actually going to happen. But at this stage the rhetoric is quite good. At this stage in transition what he is talking about is exactly what we should want," Tom Mundy added.

And 'human resources' were just the buzz words Russian business wanted to hear:

"I was really happy to hear about the importance of an individual in strengthening Russia's economy. It really hits the right spot of every business owner in the country. I was really glad to hear about the need to invest into Russia's human capital," Evgeny Chichvarkin, the president of Evroset company, said.

Medvedev was clear that defending freedom and private property would become the main focal points of his administration, his liberal views were welcomed both in Russia and abroad. But whether he can turn an impressive pre-election speech into real-life economic policies remains to be seen. ■



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RUSSIA CLOSER TO WTO ACCESSION

Russia could join the 151-member trade body by the end of the year if it keeps up its good progress, the EU's trade chief said on a visit to Moscow, although a number of sensitive issues still need to be resolved before the country gets the bloc's nod of approval.

"We're now down to, frankly, a handful of issues, a handful of bilateral matters that have got to be resolved," said EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson after meeting with his Russian counterparts on 15 February.

The hefty duties imposed unilaterally by Russia on exports of raw timber – angering EU members Finland and Sweden, whose large pulp and paper industries depend on Russian wood – are now the main outstanding issue.

Mandelson said that a number of options on timber would be "carefully weighed" by member states before the next EU-Russia talks in roughly three to four weeks. "Russia in its turn must make sure that it is able to give a quick response. If that happens, we can do this, this year and it's certainly desirable and important to do so."

He also urged Russia to implement a hard-fought deal on the phase-out of overflight fees, which Moscow continues to charge European airlines wishing to fly over Siberia despite Brussels' insistence that they are in violation of international aviation rules.

A breakthrough on these issues would signal that the end to almost 15 years of negotiations is near, although Russia's WTO bid could still face a number of hurdles, notably now that Ukraine's accession to the organisation has been approved.

Ties between Moscow and Kiev are strained to say the least and, as a fully-fledged member, Ukraine would be entitled to use its status to make fresh trade demands on Moscow before approving its bid. Notably, it could demand a reduction in the price it pays for Russian natural gas or an increase in the transit tariffs it charges Russia to deliver gas to European consumers, according to analysts.

However, Mandelson stressed it was important to ensure that any new demands placed on Russia at this late stage in the process should be "proportionate and reasonable".

"Frankly, we want to see Russia in the WTO, it's the largest economy of its size and importance outside of the organisation. There are benefits, substantial benefits, both for Russia and its trading partners," he said.

According to Mandelson's spokesman, the EU would seek to conclude a full free trade pact with Russia once its accession is completed - similarly to what is being done with Ukraine. Indeed, free trade negotiations between the EU and Kiev were launched on 18 February 2008, just two weeks after the finalisation of the country's WTO accession process. ■



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The 11th International Conference on
The Russian Automotive Industry
 11th-13th March 2008, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Moscow



Adam Smith
CONFERENCES

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In 2007, it was fitting that on its 10th anniversary the Russian Automotive Industry Forum enjoyed its highest ever levels of participation with more than 500 senior automotive executives attending from all over the world. 2008 is set to see still further increased industry activity in what is predicted by the former president of Ford Russia Henrik Nenzen to become the most active region in Europe by 2010. Thus, there is no doubt that Adam Smith Conferences' Russian Automotive Industry Forum in 2008 will once again be **THE KEY MEETING PLACE** for all industry professionals either active or interested in the Russian automotive market.

500+ delegates in 2007 chose well in attending the only event in Russia where it was possible to hear leading global OEMs such as Volkswagen, Renault, Ford and General Motors who discussed their production plans and overall strategy in the region as well as Russian manufacturers such as Severstal Avto, KAMAZ and Gaz Group discussing their plans for further growth and development.

KEY FORUM FEATURES IN 2008:

1. Over 50 key figures from the Russian and international automotive communities have already confirmed their intention to speak at the largest gathering for the automotive elite in Russia. They include General Directors from key OEMs and suppliers such as:

Renault Russia, PSA Peugeot Citroen, General Motors CIS, GAZ Group, Ford Russia, Russian Machines, Severstal-Avto, Ukravto, Avtotor Holding, Eurocar, Kamaz, Volvo Vostok, Johnson Controls, Visteon, Nokian Tyres, Robert Bosch Saratov, Johnson Matthey, Fuji Autotech AB, Lear Russia, and many more!

We are awaiting more confirmations so please do watch out for our e-shots for updates!

2. 10+ NEW TOPICS INCLUDING:

Branding, Segmentation and Model Selection
 The Aftersales Market (including effective strategies for sales and distribution)
 Tax and Legal issues
 Human Resources (recruitment, training and development)
 Effective Risk Management for suppliers and manufacturers
 Logistics and infrastructure
 Supply Chain Management
 Corporate Finance (syndicated loans, IPOs and bonds)
 Consumer Finance (auto credit and leasing)



3. **PURCHASING DIRECTORS' OPEN FORUM:** this ever-popular feature will now take place during the gala cocktail evening thus providing you with a more informal basis on which to build relationships with those responsible for sourcing suppliers

4. **THE ADAM SMITH ANNUAL INTERVIEW:** this year with Erik Eberhardson, Managing Director (Automotive Business), Russian Machines

5. **THE NEW WAVE:** hear from a panel of those representing high-value brands and the low cost sector

6. **REGIONAL INVESTMENT ROUND TABLES:** This session will feature a series of short presentations from senior representatives from the Special Economic Zones where much of the industry's production facilities are concentrated

7. **EXTENDED FOCUS** on the rapidly growing commercial vehicles segment

8. **CHINESE OEM STRATEGY OVERVIEW** - evaluate the sourcing policies and production plans of key Chinese manufacturers

9. **AUTO CONNECT 2008 LUNCHTIME STRATEGIC PARTNER SEARCH AND SELECTION SERVICE** - If you are looking for a partner to facilitate your company's growth in the Russian Automotive Industry, why not make use of Adam Smith Conference's new strategic partner search and selection service where you will have the opportunity to give a three-minute company introduction and short description of your requirements? Please note that participation is on a first-come, first-serve basis and due to time restrictions numbers are limited!

10. **"OUT OF THE BOX" PRESENTATION** by David Meier, co-author of the bestselling book, The Toyota Way

For more information, please visit the [event's website](http://www.ruscham.com).



EU BACKS UP UKRAINE'S WTO ACCESSION

The EU and Ukraine have agreed on the terms for Ukrainian accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), paving the way for membership as early as this year.

At a meeting in London, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Hryhoriy Nemyrya "sealed the final terms of the agreement", according to a Commission statement on 17 January.

After Russia and Iran, Ukraine is the third-largest country still to remain outside the trade organisation. Ukraine's accession will be put to a vote at the WTO General Council in Geneva on 5 February. The country will be able to join as soon as all WTO members have approved the terms of its accession and the agreements have been ratified.

"Today's agreement clears the way for Ukraine to fully join the world trading system," Mandelson said. "This is the first step towards greater Ukrainian integration with the global and the European economy."

Outstanding issues included the question of export duties on products such as seeds, live animals, hides and skins as well as certain scrap metals. Ukraine agreed to start lowering export duties for these products, which is expected to take 6-8 years, according to a Commission spokesperson.

Commissioner Mandelson's spokesperson Peter Power said that this could happen as soon as 2008. He said he would be "surprised" if Ukraine did not manage to join this year.

Ukraine's WTO membership will also pave the way for a "new Enhanced Agreement" with the EU, which would include a free-trade area and increased energy co-operation. The Union is currently both Ukraine's largest trading partner and largest market, with 25% of its exports (worth €8.7 billion) going to the bloc. Meanwhile, 42% of its imports (worth €17.8 billion) come from the EU. ■

BACKGROUND

The EU is the Ukraine's largest trading partner and its largest market. In 2006 the EU absorbed 25% of Ukraine's exports worth €8.7 billion and provided 42% of its imports worth €17.8 billion. In 2006, the European Commission proposed a new Enhanced Agreement with the Ukraine that would include the negotiation of a free trade area to strengthen the economic integration between the two economies. WTO Membership is the necessary foundation for such an agreement.

WTO membership will bring significant benefits for the Ukraine. It will provide it with guaranteed access to the markets of all other WTO members, including the EU. It creates a degree of certainty and stability in openness of the Ukrainian market that will help attract new trade and investment. It will be a highly significant step in the Ukraine's integration in the global economy. ■



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THE EU'S APPROACH TO THE BLACK SEA REGION

Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner participated in the first Black Sea Synergy meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the EU 27 and their counterparts from the Black Sea region in Kiev on February 14, 2008. Black Sea Synergy (BSS), an initiative launched by the Commission in 2007 aims at boosting cooperation within the region as well as between the EU and the region as a whole. Foreign Ministers will agree on priorities for future projects and discuss the potential for enhanced EU involvement with countries of the region and the role of regional organizations and other initiatives in this process.

Mr Chairman,

Ministers,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First let me express my thanks to our Host and Co-chair of this launch meeting of the Black Sea Synergy. [President Yushchenko], I am grateful to you and your compatriots for your warm welcome and hospitality. Combined with the hard work of your officials over the last few months you have set the scene for what I am sure will be a productive meeting.

I have looked forward to this moment since the EU first adopted the proposal for Black Sea Synergy. We envisaged then a high level meeting of all of the political actors involved in shaping this region's future. So I am delighted that so many of its prominent politicians are gathered here, with your colleagues from the European Union, to set the Black Sea Synergy on its voyage.

With Bulgaria and Romania joining the EU just over one year ago, the EU is no longer an external

actor in this region. Now we are irrevocably part of the region, with our future security and prosperity intimately bound up in its fortunes. It was a consciousness of our new presence on the shores of the Black Sea and our dual sense of responsibility and reliance which prompted us to propose the new co-operation we together launch today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The countries around the Black Sea's shores are all immensely rich in culture, history and artistic endeavour; as I have witnessed for myself on my travels. Only last week I was in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and last year I visited Socchi, Istanbul and Sofia. I am certainly no stranger either to the beauty and cultural wealth of the region, or to its fractures and diversity.

That diversity can be a source of great strength – as the European Union has found. But only by cooperating together.

The EU will continue to develop its bilateral relations with countries through the European Neighbourhood Policy and other strategies. But nowadays countries face chal-



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allenges which cannot be effectively tackled alone.

That is why the Black Sea Synergy sets out an agenda on issues of mutual concern: with the EU now fully engaged, we can work together to define joint projects and approaches for the future benefit of all.

That does not mean re-inventing the wheel: we do not want to duplicate what others are already doing, nor is there any desire to compete with ongoing initiatives. That is why we have turned to the Black Sea's regional organisations; particularly BSEC with its extensive membership and unique role in the region. Our objective is not to create new institutions but rather to build closer contacts with those already working in this area and see where our added value lies.

For that reason we have focused Black Sea Synergy on a number of areas, including:

Transport – with better coordination between Trans-European Networks and those across the Black Sea region;

Fisheries – looking at the sustainable use of Black Sea fishery resources;

The environment – with projects on climate change and water quality;

Cross-border cooperation – launching a programme with local authorities around the region;

And other areas like migration, law enforcement and the fight against organised crime.

I would like this meeting to highlight the priority fields where our work enjoys wide support and where coordinated action will bring tangible benefits to the citizens of

every country in the region.

But we can be even more ambitious and I would like us also to consider medium and long term targets for future cooperation.

Black Sea Synergy would act as a flexible framework bringing together interested stakeholders to develop and implement activities linked to those targets. And there could be lead countries and /or regional organisations responsible for specific targets, guided, if necessary, by further Ministerial meetings on particular sectors.

We also look forward to other proposals like Black Sea Partnerships in specific sectors.

Dear friends,

Today's event will raise the profile of this region and focus political attention on the common challenges it shares. It will spur us to work together for the common good of all those living and working around the shores of the Black Sea. And it will, rightly, raise expectations among our citizens; which we must meet.

Let me thank you once again for your participation in this common endeavour and I look forward to working with you as we build this partnership together. ■

Note:



Through the Black Sea Synergy, the EU intended to promote both, regional cooperation within the Black Sea region (offering its own experience and know-how) and a reinforced regional cooperation between the region and the EU. The EU has made in the past significant efforts in bilateral cooperation with the various countries of the Black Sea region and aims at reinforcing the regional perspective. ■



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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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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 for more information or contact us directly:

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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





UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Mar 2:** Presidential election
- Mar 10:** Public holiday in observation of March 8 International Women's Day, all markets closed
- Mar 14:** IPO-Corporate Governance Requirements round table to be held in London
- Apr 1:** 19th congress of Russian Banks Association
- Apr 2-4:** President Vladimir Putin to attend Russia-NATO Council in Bucharest, Romania
- May 1:** Labor Day, all markets closed

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, Taji-



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 ¹¹ 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.

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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.

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