

“Russia - US Economic Cooperation in Turbulent Times”

A joint conference of the Valdai Discussion Club and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP) with the participation of Russian-American Council of Business Cooperation,

March 13, 2019

16:30–18:00

The Ritz-Carlton Moscow, 3 Tverskaya st., Moskva Hall (2nd floor)

The intergovernmental relations between the United States and Russia have been rather tense in the recent years. There are fundamental discrepancies between the two sides on a number of issues of international and regional security. The United States is conducting a policy of economic sanctions vis-à-vis Russia. Their number and scope are constantly growing. Russia, in turn, introduces reciprocal restrictive measures. Considering the depth of contradictions between Moscow and Washington, political risks will continue to threaten Russian and American businesses for years to come. These risks also affect partners of Russia and the United States from the third countries.

At the same time, the two countries' businesses continue cooperation in spite of the negative political climate. According to the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia and a survey conducted by EY, US companies are upbeat: Russia remains a key market for one company in four, 65% of US companies continue to consider Russia a strategic market, 92% expect growth and improvement of financial indicators thanks to recovery of the Russian economy.

Considering the political limitations and continuing interest of businesses in full-fledged cooperation, Russia and the United States need to rethink the existing state of affairs. Mutual adaptation to a new legal and political reality is required. The two sides also need new growth areas for mutual trade as well as creation of a more favourable environment for investors and entrepreneurs. Participants in the conference will discuss problems and prospects of cooperation between Russian and American businesses, key projects and common interests in the economy and investments and will propose measures aimed at giving a boost to bilateral cooperation.

As a starting point for the discussion, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP), the Russian-American Council of Business Cooperation, NRU Higher School of Economics and the Valdai Discussion Club with assistance from American Chamber of Commerce in Russia have elaborated a report, titled “Russia - US Economic Cooperation in Turbulent Times”. Furthermore it will be presented during the conference the Valdai Club report “Coercing the Unruly: The Perfect Storm of Sanctions War.”

The conference participants will have an opportunity to discuss particular steps and measures reflected in the reports and share their vision of the future US-Russian interaction and the role of business in improving the situation.

Moderator: Andrey BYSTRITSKIY Chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Development and Support of the Valdai Discussion Club.

Presentations of reports:

SUSLOV Dmitriy, Deputy Director of the Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies NRU HSE; Deputy Director for Research at the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy;

TIMOFEEV Ivan, Programme Director of the Valdai Discussion Club.

Panelists:

KISLYAK Sergey, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Russia, Deputy Head of Committee for international affairs of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;

PUMPYANSKIY Dmitry, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TMK, President of Regional Association of Employers "Sverdlovsk Regional Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs";

RUSSELL Daniel, President and CEO, U.S. – Russia Business Council (USRBC);

RODZIANKO Alexis, President & CEO, American Chamber of Commerce in Russia (AmCham);

SMUSHKIN Zakhar, Chairman of the Board of Directors of JSC Ilim Group;

SHOKHIN Alexander, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs;

YAKOBASHVILI David, President of the Russian-American Council of Business Cooperation.