

The Annual International Conference of the 'Baltic Forum'



May 25-26, 2012

Baltic Beach Hotel, Jurmala, Latvia



PROGRAMME

Friday, May 25

09:00 - 10:00 **Registration of conference participants**

10:00 - 10:40 **Opening of the conference**

Key-note address:

Aivis Ronis - Minister of Transport of Latvia

Wolfgang Schüssel - Former Federal Chancellor of Austria, member of the board of "DER-Dialog-Europe-Russia"

Viktors Makarovs - Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Latvia)

Dimitri Simes - President and CEO of the Center for the National Interest, Publisher of The National Interest (USA)

Alexander Veshnyakov - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation in Latvia

10:40 - 14:00 **Panel Discussion 1**

Geopolitical transformation in the Southern Mediterranean, opportunities and impact of risks of the Middle East on the economy of the EU, Russia and the Baltic States.

Anticipated changes in this vast and presently explosive geographical area will inevitably affect all areas - economy, transport, energy, etc., and will inter alia influence the solution of the regional security issues of the countries that border with Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Syria, Iran and Afghanistan.

These changes may directly or indirectly impact the general principles of co-operation between Europe, USA, Russia and China in respect to the issues of combating international terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and human trafficking.

The exacerbation of the situation in the Middle East, and particularly the transformation of limited armed conflicts into overt warfare will directly influence the changes in world prices for energy and raw materials and will have an adverse effect on the potential of both global and regional development.

Moderators:

Igor Yurgens - Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Contemporary Development (Russia) and President of the Advisory Board of the Baltic Forum

Jānis Urbanovičs - President of The Baltic Forum (Latvia)

Speakers:

Konstantin Kosachev - director of the Rossotrudnichestvo and special presidential representative for CIS affairs

Rouzbeh Parsi - Research Fellow of European Union Institute for Security Studies

Andris Sprūds - director of Latvian Institute of International Affairs

Justas Vincas Paleckis - Member of the European Parliament (Lithuania)

Alexander Rahr - Program Director, Berthold Beitz Center for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Central Asia at the DGAP (Germany)

Vladimir Ovchinskiy - the expert consultant of the Public Chamber of Russia, member of editorial board of the magazine "Russia in Global Affairs", Doctor of Laws

14:00 - 15:00 Lunch

15:00 - 19:00 **Panel Discussion 2**

Possible changes in the internal policy of Russia, the U.S. and other countries. The impact of these changes on international bilateral and multilateral relations.

The possible political consequences of the completion of the era of Dmitry Medvedev's presidency and restart of Vladimir Putin as the head of the State of Russia. The urgent need to initiate the pending political reforms in Russia and the topical issues of relations between Russia and the EU.

The risks of the pre-election year in the U.S. and the most probable models of the U.S. foreign and domestic policy. Assessment of their manifestation and effects on the near and more distant perspective.

Moderators:

Aleksandr Dynkin - Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)

Alexander Rahr - Program Director, Berthold Beitz Center for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Central Asia at the DGAP (Germany)

Speakers:

Dimitri Simes - President and CEO of the Center for the National Interest, Publisher of The National Interest (USA)

Wolfgang Schüssel - Former Federal Chancellor of Austria, member of the board of "DER-Dialog-Europe-Russia"

Aleksey Arbatov - head of the Center for International Security of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Qu Xing - President of China Institute of International Studies (CIIS)

Inguna Sudraba - Auditor General of the Republic of Latvia

Saturday, May 26

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration of the conference participants**

09:30 - 11:30 **Panel Discussion 3**

Challenges of the global crisis and the issues of increasing the competitiveness of Europe

The anticipated changes in the EU will become a considerable challenge both to the global and all-European development. The crisis of the euro area, which in 2011 became the world's largest financial problem, marked a fundamental turning point in the development of the EU.

For many years the European Union has been the flagship and model of democracy and tolerance. It demonstrated successful development of a regional cooperation and collaboration system to other countries on its own example. However, the financial and economic deadlock, which the euro area entered at the end of 2011, reduced the attractiveness of the EU to an unprecedented level in the eyes of the rest of the world and spawned many doubts in the longevity of the European Union.

The European Union is facing a difficult choice - what to base its further development on? Currently, both the continuation of the process of European integration on the way to further federalization of the EU and the suspension of the integration processes in Europe with a partial implementation of the decentralization of the EU and implementation of the policy of 'dual-speed Europe' are being discussed as seriously as possible.

The issues of the European policy for establishing and strengthening of bilateral and multilateral good neighborhood relations in respect to the Baltics - Belarus and the Baltics - Russia require serious discussion as well.

Moderator:

Sergey Kulik - Director for International Development, Institute of Contemporary Development (Russia)

Speakers:

Aleksandr Dynkin - Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)

Elena Telegina - Director of Institute of Geopolitical Research and Energy Security (Russia)

Mustafa Acar - Professor, Rector of Aksaray University, Aksaray, Turkey

Mikhail Kovalchuk - Director of the Scientific Centre "Kurchatov Institute" (Russia)

Nadezhda Arbatova - Head of the Department on European Political Studies at the Center for European Integration, Institute for International Economy and International Relations (Russia)

Ivars Brīvers - Professor at the BA School of Business and Finance, Chairman of the Board of the Latvian Association of Economists

Mikhail Marchan - Deputy Director, European Studies Institute, MGIMO University, Russia

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 - 14:00 **Panel Discussion 4**

Prospects for economic cooperation of the European and Asian countries and search for common responses to global challenges

As regards the overall potential of the GDP China has already become the second largest world economy. In the coming years other political and economic components will also be added to the rapidly growing economic potential of China. Already in the foreseeable future they will bring to the country the status of one of the leaders on the planetary scale both in respect to the huge accumulated financial resources and in the area of the strengthening military potential.

Similar processes can be observed in the development of India, Brazil and other players, who are strengthening their positions. At the same time the order of decision-making in the UN and other influential international organizations or the distribution of global financial flows with the participation of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank has been developed in the mid-20th century, in the era when the leaders of this century were poor and financially insignificant countries.

How will the changes in the global balance of power affect the economic development of the countries participating in the conference? What configuration will the main and most efficient international transport corridors take? How will global changes affect the development of energy, the distribution of raw materials and water resources, the international division of labor? How will the rapid processes of change taking place in the world affect the improvement of education, the development of science and technology?

Moderators:

Nadezhda Arbatova - Head of the Department on European Political Studies at the Center for European Integration, Institute for International Economy and International Relations (Russia)

Juris Paiders - President of the Latvian Journalists' Union, newspaper "Independent Morning Newspaper" deputy editor

Speakers:

Ruslan Grinberg - Head of the Institute for International Economic and Political Studies, Russian Academy of Science

Sergey Lousianin - Director of the Institute for Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Science

İbrahim Öztürk - Professor at Marmara University (Turkey)

Vyacheslav Trubnikov - ambassador, Army General, Senior Fellow of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)

Dr. Peter P. Balas - Deputy Director-General of The Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission

Sergey Kulik - Director for International Development, Institute of Contemporary Development (Russia)

14:00 - 15:00 Lunch

15:00 - 17:00 **Panel Discussion Continued**

17:00 - 17:30 **Closing of the Conference**

Press-conference for the Latvian and international media