



CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION: RUSSIAN FEDERATION, EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY



IV Annual International Conference

29-30 September 2008, Pskov

Since the year 2005 on the territory of the North-West Federal District a series of annual international conferences on cross-border cooperation between the Russian Federation, the European Union and Norway is held. These events establish a site for meeting of actors and stake-holders of cross-border cooperation, multi-faceted exchange of opinions on the most topical questions and elaboration of recommendations on its further development.

The IV Annual International Conference «Cross-Border Cooperation: the Russian Federation, the European Union and Norway» will be organized on 29-30 September 2008 in Pskov. The main organizers of the conference are: Office of the Plenipotentiary Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation to the North-West Federal District and Ministry for Regional Development of the Russian Federation. Co-organizers: Nordic Council of Ministers, North-West Development and Investment Promotion Agency and Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Plenipotentiary Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation to the North-West Federal District Mr. Klebanov and Governor of the Pskov oblast Mr. Kuznetsov will take part in the opening of the conference. Representative of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Russian Federation – at the level of Deputy Minister, representatives of the Council of Federation and the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport of Russia, Federal Agency for Tourism of Russia and others will be among the key speakers.

The Pskov oblast is the single subject of the Russian Federation, bordering three states, two of which – Latvia and Estonia – are the EU member States. The region possesses unique possibilities in terms of geographical position, however, its cross-border cooperation can still be developed.

Wide range of questions significant for cross-border cooperation of North-West region of Russia will be considered at the conference, e.g.: general trends and perspectives of business cooperation of the border regions, promising areas of interregional cooperation, importance of cross-border cooperation for socio-economic development of the territories, regional strategic planning, promotion of tourism potential of border regions and many others. Certain project proposals are to be presented, and investment potential of the Pskov oblast will be demonstrated.

The focus of this year's conference is on prospects of further economic and political cooperation between Russia and Latvia.

Taking into consideration that international transport corridors cross the territory of the Pskov oblast, it seems necessary to articulate questions of transport communication and logistics, customs and border infrastructure. During the Round table on 30 September it is supposed to discuss prospects for development of transport and logistics system of the North-West Federal District, issues of customs clearance, transport projects in the Baltic Sea region, etc. Representatives of regional authorities, North-West Customs Directorate and Frontier Office of the FSS of Russia in the North-West Federal District, industry associations, relevant companies and enterprises are invited to take part in the debate.

The conference is of particular importance because of the fact that it is carried out on the threshold of the Collegium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the issues of cross-border cooperation, and recommendations of the participants of the conference will be considered at the Collegium's session.

The conference is organized jointly with the Round table on the project «The Baltic Euroregional Network – East» (BEN-East), financed by the European Union «Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood» Programme and Nordic Council of Ministers. The main object of the project is to deepen the process of cooperation between Euroregions, national and regional authorities, international organizations, to raise institutional competency in the Euroregions and other bodies of trans-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

The Conference organizers:

- **North-West Development and Investment Promotion Agency**

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