

INVITATION

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung has the pleasure of inviting you to a panel discussion on:

The Strategic Relations between the EU and Russia: from Neighbourhood to Partnership

Thursday, 25 April 2013

12.15 until 2.30 pm

Representation of the Free State of Bavaria
to the European Union
Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brüssel

With kind support of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria
to the European Union



Programme

- 12.15 pm REGISTRATION AND LUNCH
- 1.00 pm OPENING AND WELCOME
Dr. Angelika SCHLUNCK
Director, Representation of the Free State of Bavaria
Christian FORSTNER
Director, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Brussels
- 1.10 pm KEY NOTE SPEECH
Soft Power and European Dimension in Russian Foreign Policy
Konstantin KOSACHEV
Chairman of the Federal Agency for the Relations with the CIS States, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the State Duma 2003-2011
- 1.30 pm FOLLOWED BY A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH:
Konstantin KOSACHEV
Gunnar WIEGAND
Director, Russia, Central Asia, Eastern Partnership, Regional Co-operation and OSCE, European External Action Service, Brussels
Dr. Susan STEWART
SWP, Berlin
- MODERATION
Christian FORSTNER
- 2.30 pm END OF CONFERENCE
– Coffee and pastries –

Conference languages:

German, English and Russian
(Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.)

Background

It is mainstream belief in Western policy that security in Europe can only be achieved by working together with – and not against – Russia. Ethnic conflicts, energy security, nuclear proliferation, international terrorism, Afghanistan, Syria, Iran – the list of common threats is long. The strategic partnership between the EU and Russia is an ambitious aim, but doubts – concerning domestic developments in Russia as well as Russia's regional and global power politics – remain.

Russia is and will remain a factor of power in Europe, the interrelations in the energy and trade sector reflect the interdependency of Europe and Russia. Historic and cultural ties do not necessarily result in a common set of values, negotiations on the new EU-Russia agreement are not proceeding.

Domestic stability and consolidation of Russian influence in the CIS region will be the main objectives of the next years' Kremlin policy. Russia's protest against the intrusion of external powers in Eastern Europe is often seen as neo-Russian imperialism and anti-Western ideology. The 2008 Georgia War illustrates how quickly cold conflicts can turn into hot wars.

We hereby invite you to a discussion on the strategic partnership between the EU and Russia. Since years, Konstantin Kosachev has been a key decision-maker in Russian foreign affairs, formerly in the Parliament, now in the Government.

Organisation and contact:

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