



INVITATION

The Hanns Seidel Foundation and the European Security Round Table have the pleasure of inviting you to a conference on:

After the EU-Russia Summit: Cold Peace or Strategic Partnership?

Tuesday, 18 February 2014

3.00pm until 4.30pm

Registration from 2.15pm

Venue: Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union, Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels

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



Programme

- 02.15pm REGISTRATION AND LIGHT SNACKS
- 03.00pm WELCOME
Michael HINTERDOBLER
Director, Bavarian Representation
- 03.05pm BACKGROUND
Dr. Gabriele STAUNER, MEP
Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, EPP Group
- 03.15pm THE DEBATE
Elmar BROK, MEP
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Member of the Bureau, EPP Group
- H.E. Vladimir CHIZHOV**
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Russian
Federation to the EU
- MODERATION
Dr. Christian Trippe
Head of Studio Brussels, Deutsche Welle
- 04.25pm CLOSING REMARKS
Christoph RAAB
Chairman, European Security Round Table
- 04.30pm END OF CONFERENCE
– Reception –

Conference Languages: German and English
(Simultaneous interpretation will be provided)

Background

EU-Russia relations are actually healthier than their reputation despite the cancelled dinner at the last summit. The interdependence goes far beyond economics, finances, energy and security. However, close relationships also generate tensions. Central and Eastern Europe's societies are traumatized by Soviet domination and still, Moscow intensifies relations with countries in the post-Soviet spaces offering loans as well as gas and oil deliveries in exchange for 'proper' behaviour. On the contrary, Moscow complains vis-à-vis Brussels that visa liberalization is not happening fast enough, and Russia's gas monopolist Gazprom feels discriminated against in the European internal market. As for the EU-Russia affairs in general, economic relations are flourishing whereas the political dialogue is stumbling. Despite Olympics in Sochi and Putin's pardoning of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Pussy Riot, doubts about sustainable liberal reforms in Russia remain.


Russia is Europe, historically, politically, and culturally. Russia is very much interested in an effective and stable EU. The cooperation in four common spaces as well as the strategic partnership for modernization is supposed to result in a free trade area from Lisbon to Vladivostok. However, reality lags behind this objective.

The economic and financial crisis is currently still dominating Europe. The EU's attractiveness cannot be taken for granted; new regions are gaining economic and geopolitical importance. The EU must consider these developments when conducting its Foreign and Neighbourhood policy.

We cordially invite you to discuss EU-Russia relations with Elmar Brok and Vladimir Chizhov.

Organisation and contact:

Christian Forstner, Hanns Seidel Foundation Brussels

+32-2-230-50-81, bruessel@hss.de 

Christoph Raab, European Security Round Table

+32-2-640-63-92, info@security-round-table.eu