Formation of EU-Russia Dialogue on Innovation Policy: a business perspective

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**WHAT IS IRT**

**Task Forces and Secretariats**
- Monitoring
- Expertise
- Industry trends

**Council**
- General view
- Strategic direction

**Events**
- Public discussion
- Opinion forming

**Political Advocacy**
- Recommendations to authorities
- Feedback

**In today’s focus:**
- New PCA
- Russia and WTO
- Dialogue on innovation policy
- Investment protection
A little bit of history

• 2006. Helsinki. 8th IRT General Meeting. Main theme – new framework agreement to replace the outdating PCA, to be resting on three pillars:
  1. Broad and comprehensive free trade agreement between EU and Russia.
  2. Open and reciprocal regime for mutual investment based on national treatment.
  3. Approximation of economic regulations and standards.
+ strategic partnerships in key sectors and areas like energy, transport, innovation and technology, industrial cooperation.

• 2007. Lisbon. 9th IRT General Meeting. Main theme – by delaying the start of negotiations over the new PCA both governments yield to business the cooperative initiatives. ICT TF recommendation:
  – Further development of joint research and development initiatives. Establishment of effective mechanism for innovative technology exchange between EU and Russia targeted on developing state-of-the-art products and services in aerospace, IT, telecom and management and control systems.

• 2008. Cannes. 10th IRT General Meeting. Main theme – financial turmoil, WTO, investor protection. Inter alia:
  – Innovation should be given more prominence in the EU-Russia general dialogue. In the 21st century, innovation is a crucial factor of competitiveness and economic growth. Political leaders should create possibilities for closer cooperation and reciprocity in each others’ government innovation programmes, e.g. investigate the possibility of Russia’s participation in the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT). EU-Russia cooperation should support the development of joint training programmes and twinning arrangements to facilitate dissemination of best practice, e.g. in the area of commercialisation of innovations. Adequate protection of intellectual property rights and the fight against trade in counterfeit products are crucial for the promotion of innovation. The EU and Russia, as major trading partners, are in a strong position to act jointly.
IRT Message to the Khabarovsk Summit, 22\textsuperscript{nd} May 2009:
- IRT council members also believe that there is significant potential in developing a common agenda to boost cooperation on innovation. Closer cooperation in this area will not only contribute to a greater dynamism in our economies, but also help achieve a more diversified and integrated EU-Russia economic relationship. The IRT Council therefore proposes that the political leaders meeting at the Khabarovsk Summit explore further the possibilities of co-operation in this area, including setting up a dialogue dedicated to innovation cooperation.

At its meeting on 4 June 2009 in St. Petersburg,
- the IRT Council discussed the business priorities for a dialogue on innovation...

... and proposed to the November-2009 EU-Russia Summit in Stockholm concrete recommendations that can serve as a reference for a Dialogue on Innovations.
Technological innovations are the key to ensuring our economies can continue to grow in a sustainable manner while addressing global challenges, including climate change. IRT believes that there is significant untapped potential in strengthening Russia-EU cooperation in this area. We therefore encourage the political leadership of the EU and Russia to set up a new Dialogue focusing specifically on technological innovation, with the following priorities:

i. Strengthen the legal framework for innovative development and business-to-business cooperation

ii. Boost ties to advance formation of an EU-Russia single market for creation, commercialisation and adaptation of innovations

iii. Develop mechanisms to facilitate cooperation at the project level, especially in areas where joint activities by Russian and EU partners can bring strategic competitive advantages to our economies
IRT Priorities in the new Dialogue – Short-term

• Establishment of a programme to boost a number of long-term twinning arrangements between national organisations operating in the area of innovation support, as well as between government organisations that regulate particular aspects of the innovation process

• Setting up common educational standards and supporting respective training programmes for innovation management and commercialisation (including as part of MBA programmes)

• Remove obstacles to mutual laboratory accreditation, including measures to accelerate the process of accreditation of Russian laboratories by EU regulatory authorities

• Initiating a joint programme to gradually implement a mechanism of mutual acceptance of decisions in the area of certification and compliance

• Expanding possibilities for research organisations to participate in cross-border government tenders for development of new technologies and know-how

• Simplification of rules for hiring foreign researchers and other technology personnel, as well as relaxing rules for cross-border travel of such personnel
IRT Priorities in the new Dialogue
Mid-term goals

• Rules governing the allocation of state support for innovation
• Open public procurement for new technologies and know-how
• Technical harmonisation on standards and certification systems, including mutual acceptance of metrology, quality standards and environmental requirements
• Trusted protection of Intellectual property Rights (IPR), including patents and licensing agreements, to secure transfer of technology and know how between investors and industry
• Competition and antimonopoly regulation, including issues related to the formation of strategic business partnerships to develop new technologies and know-how
• Financing of innovation, including venture capital financing and public-private partnerships (PPPs)
• Support for pilot projects and early deployment
• Commercialisation and diffusion of innovations
New Dialogue – organizational aspects

- Government-to-government
- Government-to-business

Needed:
- responsible state bodies to be identified and charged
- system of intergovernment consultations with mandatory attendance by business
- lessons learnt from other Dialogues
- government officials taking part in our workshops to review and discuss specific projects
- FEEDBACK!!!!!