

Implementing the Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme in Russia

The 2014-2020 Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme in Russia is an instrument for the implementation of joint cross-border projects between regions of the Russian Federation, states of the European Union and Norway that promote balanced socioeconomic development in the Baltic Region. Implementation of the Programme will help foster ties between regions of Russia and EU countries, preserve common cultural values, support environmental safety, and develop infrastructure.

Reference

The document has been submitted by the Ministry of Economic Development.

In accordance with Russian Government Directive No 1351-r of 29 June 2016, Russia's application to join the 2014-2020 Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) has been signed.

By signing the directive, the Russian Party approved the draft Agreement on financial contributions of the Russian Federation and the European Union in order to ensure the implementation of the 2014-2020 Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme in Russia (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement and the Programme, respectively).

The Programme is an instrument for the implementation of joint cross-border projects between regions of the Russian Federation, states of the European Union and Norway that promote balanced socioeconomic development in the Baltic Region.

For the Russian regions that are part of the Northwestern Federal District, this format of interregional cooperation is an effective tool for addressing regional issues, as well as an additional source of funding for regional initiatives.

Implementation of the Programme will help foster ties between the regions of Russia and the EU countries, preserve common cultural values, support environmental safety, and develop infrastructure.

Funds in the amount of 4.4 million euros will be allocated from the federal budget to implement the Agreement after its ratification as Russia's contribution to the Programme (1.5 million euros in 2017, 1.5 million euros in 2018, 1.4 million euros in 2019). These funds are provided for in the federal budget for 2017 and for the planning period of 2018 and 2019.

The signing of the Agreement will ensure the participation of Russian organisations in this Programme.

Russia's approval of amendments to the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) of 27 June 1980

The new version of the Agreement updates functions related to resource mobilisation and financing actions regarding commodities, establishing partnerships to implement development projects in the commodities sector, providing services, and spreading knowledge and information on new and innovative approaches.

Reference

The document has been submitted by the Russian Ministry of Economic Development.

The Common Fund for Commodities (hereinafter the CFC) is an international intergovernmental organisation established within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Its mission is to enhance socioeconomic development and the competitiveness of products of the most vulnerable commodity producers in value chains, and to support food security. Duties to the CFC budget are not mandatory.

The CFC has 101 members. Russia has participated in its operation since 1992 as successor to the USSR, which joined the CFC in 1987, and is one of the largest CFC shareholders.

In 2009, the reform of the CFC was initiated in order to modernise its organisational structure and revise its governing principles.

In this context, Russia has signed a directive approving amendments to the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities of 27 June 1980 (hereinafter Agreement).

The new version of the Agreement updates functions related to resource mobilisation and financing actions regarding commodities, establishing partnerships to implement development projects in the commodities sector, providing services, and spreading knowledge and information on new and innovative approaches. It also provides for the foundation of a special fund to raise additional financing in order to implement projects in the CFC member countries.

Dmitry Medvedev's talks with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades

Topics of discussion included current issues related to Russia-Cyprus trade, economic and investment cooperation, as well as cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Excerpts from the transcript:

Talks with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades

Dmitry Medvedev: Mr President, it is your third visit to our country while in office. We appreciate it, because Cyprus is a reliable and important partner of ours in Europe. We have established beneficial cooperation between governments; we have active ties between business communities, as well as an active cultural dialogue. This time we are signing a number of important agreements between our countries. And so your visit is a good opportunity to compare notes. I am sure that you will have productive talks with President Putin.

Nicos Anastasiades: This visit symbolises a great many things: the long historical ties that connect us, as well as the constant support of the Russian people for the settlement of the Cyprus problem, which, unfortunately, still exists.

We appreciate the principled position of the Russian Government.

Our relations reflect the cultural, historical, religious and other ties that exist between our nations.

These relations are also reflected in the agreements which will be signed tomorrow between our countries, as well as the existing ones (67 in total) which reflect the full range of cooperation between our states.

On 31 October – 2 November Dmitry Medvedev will visit China and attend the 22nd regular meeting of Russian

and Chinese heads of government

During the 31 October – 2 November 2017 visit, the Russian Prime Minister will hold talks with Premier of the State Council of China Li Keqiang on key areas of Russian-Chinese cooperation in the trade and economic, investment, energy, industrial, transport and humanitarian spheres. They will discuss the implementation of major joint infrastructural and high-technology projects, and will consider important current issues of interregional and cross-border cooperation.

They will also exchange views on coordinating the efforts of the *EAEU* with China's Belt and Road initiative, with an emphasis on promoting specific cross-border initiatives.

A large package of intergovernmental, interagency and corporate documents in various areas of bilateral cooperation is being prepared for signing in the wake of the talks.

During the upcoming visit, Dmitry Medvedev will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhang Dejiang. Dmitry Medvedev and Li Keqiang will also attend the closing ceremony of the 2016-2017 China-Russia media cross-years project.

Expanding the list of international financial institutions whose securities may be issued and publicly traded in Russia

The list of international financial institutions whose securities are allowed to be issued and publicly traded in Russia now includes the International Development Association. This decision expands the opportunities for its participation in investment projects in Russia, which will contribute, among other things, to the development of the Russian financial market.

Reference

Prepared by the Russian Ministry of Finance.

The International Development Association (hereinafter IDA), a member of the World Bank Group, has been providing assistance to the world's poorest developing countries since 1960, providing them with grants and loans for 25-40 years at low or zero interest for projects and programmes aimed at

reducing poverty, boosting institutional capacity and creating conditions for economic growth. Since its inception, the IDA has invested more than \$312 billion in 112 countries around the world. The IDA includes 173 member countries, of which 78 (including India) are eligible for assistance.

The main sources of funding for the IDA programmes are its own funds (returns from repayment of earlier loans and income from investment activities), contributions from the net income of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation, and contributions from donor countries. IDA resources are replenished once every three years through multilateral consultations of donor countries with the IDA.

In 2016, for the first time the IDA received the highest credit ratings of Moody's and S&P. This will enable the IDA to raise funds in capital markets to finance projects in a wide range of areas related to promoting development. At the same time, the IDA Charter requires written confirmation from a member state to borrow funds in its national currency.

In July 2017, the IDA requested permission to enter the capital markets of the Russian Federation to apply its new business model and expand the use of concessional lending. However, until recently the IDA was not allowed to issue securities in Russia due to the restrictions imposed by Federal Law No. 39-FZ of April 22, 1996, On the Securities Market.

Considering the IDA's important role in promoting international development, and the fact that a number of leading international financial institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the New Development Bank have already been included in the list of organisations whose securities are allowed to be issued and publicly traded on the Russian stock market approved by the Russian Government, the newly signed Government directive included the IDA in the list.

This decision expands the opportunities for the IDA's participation in investment projects in Russia, which will contribute, among other things, to the development of the Russian financial market.