SYNOPSIS ON THE TOPIC

Trade policy

Policies relating to the management of import and export strategies as factors into economic development strategies.

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ANALYTICAL DIGEST

ROSCONGRESS INSIDER. Special issue on the outcomes of the Russia–Africa Economic Forum

In this analytical digest, the Roscongress Foundation summarizes the outcomes of the first Russia–Africa Economic Forum which took place on 23–24 October, 2019 in Sochi.
Latest publications in block «Events»

RUSSIA HOUSE IN DAVOS – 2020

Europe–Russia Diplomacy Exchange
📅 22 January 2020  ⏰ 18:00–19:00

Moderator

Nadezhda Sikorsky
Chief Editor, Nasha Gazeta.ch

KEY CONCLUSIONS

There is no strategic dialogue between Russia and the European Union

We have a short-term strategy in terms of our dealings with the EU. That strategy only considers conflicts and tension that exists between countries, while economic dialogue is the same as it was before 2014 — Sergey Cheryomin, Minister, Head of Department for Foreign Economic Activity and International Relations of Moscow, Moscow City Government.

The basis for political dialogue in future will be economic relations and engagement

While politicians are talking, business people are busy working — Nadezhda Sikorsky, Chief Editor, Nasha Gazeta.ch.

Everyone is worse off without dialogue, but now is not the time to develop political dialogue. If we just work together, dialogue will come naturally — Mauro Pantaleo, President, P&P Advisory Group.

Read more →

RUSSIA–AFRICA ECONOMIC FORUM

Introducing Russia to Africa
📅 23 October 2019  ⏰ 12:00–13:00
Moderator

Maxim Oreshkin
Aide to the President of the Russian Federation

KEY CONCLUSIONS

Africa is attractive for investment and trade

A promising area of cooperation involves attracting big Russian investors in industries strategic for many African countries, such as agriculture, mining or processing raw material — Andrey Kostin, President, Chairman of the Management Board, Member of the Supervisory Council, Member of the Strategy and Corporate Governance Committee, VTB Bank.

Africa is a large consumer of agricultural produce. Last year, the volume of our export exceeded USD 4.6 billion — Sergey Yushin, Head of the Executive Committee, National Meat Association.

We watch Africa closely and with affection. We see the continent’s great opportunities and readiness to cooperate with Russian companies — Mushegh Sahakyan, Director for International Development, Yandex.Taxi.

Russia has the right technologies to develop the African region

The key objective is to take the level of life on the African continent up to the global standards of developed countries. Its basic aspect is food security, while the ultimate priority includes providing a variety of good and healthy food. It is paramount that all African residents have access to such ration. It is a strategic goal, and we are able and willing to help our African partners with it — Dmitry Mazepin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, URALCHEM.

Russia is the world’s only market where local online services win over their American rivals in an open and fair competition — Mushegh Sahakyan, Director for International Development, Yandex.Taxi.

It is the synergy of using digital technologies that gives the positive effect that we see in our country’s budgetary segment — Alexey Overchuk, Deputy Commissioner, Federal Tax Service of Russia.

Russia is the pioneer of nuclear energy. The world’s first
nuclear power plant was launched in no other place than here 65 years ago, and throughout the course of history we have been the world’s leader in developing innovative nuclear technologies. <…> We work around the globe and pay a special attention to the African continent, which is undoubtfully an area of growth – Kirill Komarov, First Deputy Director General for Corporate Development and International Business, ROSATOM State Atomic Energy Corporation.

Existing competencies of Russian Railways will be demanded in Africa. African countries are about to reach leading social and economic performance. By 2050, over one third of global population increase will occur in African countries. Keeping this pace, ensuring the quality of economic growth and life is only possible through developing railways. This has been proved by the world’s experience – Oleg Belozerov, Chief Executive Officer – Chairman of the Executive Board, Russian Railways.

In our country, vast territories belong to the zone of risky agriculture, therefore over the decades Russian companies have accumulated unique agricultural competencies. <…> Our companies are becoming primary partners in the African continent in both produce and technology export – Dmitry Mazepin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, URALCHEM.

We possess colossal information on African countries’ geology. No other country in the world has this information. We boast 40 years of experience in 26 African countries, which is fairly big. We understand how complicated geological aspects can be tackled. We bring new technologies. <…> This allows us to create new jobs and infrastructure and be the cornerstone for the economy of whole regions and countries, which apart from other things plays a major role in export and impacts social stability – Sergey Gorkov, General Director, Chairman of the management Board of Rosgeologia».

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RUSSIA–AFRICA ECONOMIC FORUM

Sustainable Partnership in Agriculture: Institutions, Tools, and Guarantees

📅 24 October 2019  🕒 13:00–14:30

Moderator

Albert Davleev

President, Agrifood Strategies
KEY CONCLUSIONS

There is a huge potential to increase turnover between Russian and African countries

Our cooperation with the African continent in terms of trade is on the rise: over the last three years – in 2016–2018 – Russian export to Africa has seen an increment of over 70%; at the same time our import from Africa has grown as well. <…> There is still room for growth: last year, we supplied USD 4.6 billion worth of goods, but quality-wise this is only 5% of total food import in Africa – Sergey Levin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

Our and Russian goods are no competitors. They benefit each other, that is why we are so interested in doing business with Russia – Angela Ndambuki, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A fast development of African countries helps strengthen cooperation in agribusiness industry

Why is now the time for cooperation? Because we see fundamental change in Africa’s food and agricultural industry. <…> You can see a revolution in consumption: a growing middle class and an urbanizing continent. <…> What is crucial here is that Africa is getting a large number of mid-sized farms. They are very different from small ones. They invest in capital. They are interested in services, digital and other things – Kray Holger, Head of the Africa Policy Unit, World Bank Group.

We have the EBA index [Enabling the Business of Agriculture, – Ed.] This index is measured in 35 African countries. <…> In 2019, they show the highest reform rates in agriculture – Kray Holger, Head of the Africa Policy Unit, World Bank Group.

In order to improve agriculture’s performance and added value, <…> we are interested in producing equipment and cutting-edge technologies. And of course, Russia is one of those countries we are really interested in cooperation with – Angela Ndambuki, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Demand for produce in Africa is growing fast and it is growing faster than the population. <…> Consumers’ tastes also change. Consumers go from maize to wheat – Selim Basak, Managing Partner, Gemcorp Capital.

In order to raise direct investment, <…> our ministry of agriculture is introducing initiatives that aim to help investors feel confident. <…> Today, the World Bank has made a decision to take Nigeria 15 points up. <…> Now we have reached number 130 – H.E. Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Today, Africa is one of the world’s fastest growing regions. Today, its population is 1.2 billion people, and according to the World Bank it will go 40% up to 1.7 billion. The food market that already exceeds USD 300 billion today will reach USD 1 trillion by 2030 – Sergey Levin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

Russia is ready to supply produce and agribusiness technologies to Africa

Over the last 10 years, the volume of agricultural production in our country has more than doubled, which allowed us to launch large-scale export of our food to global markets. <…> Last year, we exported USD 26 billion-worth of agricultural
produce. <...> In comparison with 2000 our export has gone up almost 20 times. <...> Russia has been the world’s number one wheat exporter over the recent years — Sergey Levin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

We deliver it through platforms. <...> When a farmer gets the knowledge about what a field needs for a specific crop, he can run the equipment with this app. <...> We are talking about pinpoint farming, because land is different everywhere. <...> We want to help with logistics, financial banking services and creating an agricultural ecosystem around the farmer — Dmitry Konyaev, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, URALCHEM.

Russian companies today <...> are ready to provide all partners with a huge number of services in support of agricultural machinery, selection and genetic development, soil maps, and selection of the optimal composition of fertilizers — Albert Davleev, President, Agrifood Strategies.
## Speakers and experts

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