Newsletter January 2019

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We live in a time of fundamental change and general political insecurity. New political constellations can be seen as both, a threat but also a chance. There is always hope for a new approximation between the West and Russia, and many Europeans are in favour of easing the Western Sanctions for new modes of cooperation between the neighbours.

Some Western European politicians fear an increasing power of the giant neighbour in the East, while others claim that in times of open confrontation between the US and China it is important to define the role of Russia in the world and stand up for greater cooperation.

In these times of instability and multiple negative tendencies, the Swiss–Russian Chamber of Commerce sees its goal in stabilising trade relations, facilitating technological exchange and fostering cultural programmes between our countries and Europe in a wider context.

Beatrice G. Lombard-Martin
Co-President, Founder

1 SRF Swiss-Russian Chamber of Commerce 2018

After four years of Western sanctions, the year 2018 started hopeful for an economic turnaround in Russia. In Switzerland the interest in the Russian market was increasing contrary to upcoming expectations.

Switzerland was favoured for business activities by Russian investors but not easily accessible due to the aggregate price level. Our concentration was hence on innovative and small enterprises.

Operational Activity

Last year we received multiple requests to facilitate the introduction of Swiss products to the Russian market and vice versa, as well as requests from companies intending to establish partnerships and search for investors. Among them was the Russian first TV channel and the Russian Central Bank.

Review 2018

February: Russian Investment Forum in Sochi

The forum brought together representatives of the federal and regional authorities, leading economists and entrepreneurs, and the heads of major domestic and foreign companies. It concluded in Sochi on 16 February 2018.

SRCC as a partner of Rosscongress provided information support and promoted the forum in Switzerland. Our members had special participation conditions.
March: Blockchain Leadership Summit 2018

A conference of world TOP level experts, visionaries and professionals of the blockchain industry took place in Zurich on 9 March 2018 at Dolder Grand Hotel. Opinion leaders discussed the future of a decentralised world, newest regulatory and infrastructural achievements, industrial implementation of blockchain technology and its social and economic impact.

April: Swiss Days in St. Petersburg

On 12–22 April 2018, a promotion of Swiss products, including Swiss culture, Switzerland as a business location, tourist and health destination with an animated stand and focus on Swissness, took place at the shopping mall Piter Raduga. The project was organised by Switzerland Global Enterprise, Swiss Business Hub Russia and The Consulate General St. Petersburg.

May: Success in Emerging Markets

On 18 May 2018 a Business Conference was held at the University of Fribourg. The focus was on Russia, its business opportunities as well as challenges, chances and experiences.

Organisation: University of Fribourg

- Prof. Dirk Morschett, Chair for International Management;
- Prof. Rudolf Grünig, Chair of Management.

Speakers and Panelists:

- Béatrice Lombard–Martin, Co–President, Swiss Russian Forum Foundation;
- Francis Maechling, CFO, Liebherr Mining;
- Dr. Veit Wagner, Vice President of the Board, REHAU Grou.

June: St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF)

The SPIEF is an annual Russian business event for the economic sector, which has been held in St. Petersburg since 1997, and under the auspices of the Russian President since 2005. The Forum brings together the chief executives of major Russian and international companies, heads of state, political leaders, prime ministers, deputy prime ministers, departmental ministers, and governors.

The XXII St. Petersburg International Economic Forum took place on 25–26 May 2018. It was attended by President of France Emmanuel Macron, Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan, and the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe.

As the official partner of Roscongress (the organiser of SPIEF St. Petersburg), SRCC formed a Swiss Delegation with members of the SRF: Pierre Helg (Partner Quorus), Ljuba Manz (owner Manz Privacy Hotels) and Nenad Pavlecic (GM Roche Russia). Switzerland was officially represented by Jörg Gasser, State Secretary of Finance.
July: 27th International Financial Congress in St. Petersburg

The International Financial Congress is Russia's largest professional event devoted to finance. Topics discussed at the Congress include current problems facing the financial industry, the development of regulation, monetary policy, and economic development.

The Congress is operated by the Roscongress Foundation, a partner of the SRF.

September: Official Business Delegation to Siberia

An official business delegation visited Tyumen (Russia) where, among others, meetings of representatives of the SRF Swiss-Russian Chamber of Commerce and representatives of the local industry and Tyumen regional government took place.

Among the issues discussed were the possibilities of localising and cooperating with businesses of Swiss companies in the region.

In order to continue business relations in this region, the Tyumen Investment Agency is ready to supply information on regional business development and local government support.

Please, send us any request you might have!

September: Vladivostok Economic Forum

Eastern Economic Forum is an international forum held yearly in September, at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia, for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the Russian Far East.

Thanks to the cooperation with Roscongress, a member of the SRF had the opportunity of contributing to the sessions with presentations on The contribution of women innovators and business leaders in shaping the economy of the future and Financial center and offshore in the far East.

November: Russian Energy Week, Moscow

The key theme of the Russian Energy Week International Forum 2018 (3–6 October 2018) was Sustainable Energy for a Changing World. The Congress is operated by the Roscongress Foundation, a partner of the SRF.

Singing of Agreement with Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University.

During the 2nd International Health Investment Forum held at the Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, a Cooperation Agreement has been signed between the SRF and Sechenov University. The Agreement focuses on developing collaboration in the area of medical science and education between the Sechenov University and Swiss Universities and University Hospitals with SRF providing facilitation and support.
2 Programme Innovation (Science & Technology)

The Swiss-Russian Innovation Award: The Suvorov Prize. Cooperation between Switzerland and Russia in the Field of Innovation

More than 40 projects were accepted to the competition in 2018 as they contained a clear Swiss–Russian component and met the following criteria:

- **Creativity:** originality, interdisciplinarity, simplicity;
- **Innovation value:** transfer of Science and Economy;
- **Social relevance:** social need, wide social effect;
- **Marketability:** market need, feasibility, affordability.

The awarded projects

1\textsuperscript{st} **Melfon Surdo Surround:** This is a project to improve the listening satisfaction for hearing aid users. A method of assessment of a patient’s personal satisfaction with individually fitted hearing aids using a personalised software setup optimisation based on cost/efficiency criteria, wherein the efficiency is determined by audiological comfort and speech intelligibility in a noisy environment;

2\textsuperscript{nd} **Nanolab:** Molecular designer in virtual reality is an interactive guide for teaching chemistry to students at the professional level. With the help of Nanolab it is possible to teach 100,000 students within 5 years the profession of nanoengineer;

3\textsuperscript{rd} **SEFL** (Single End Fault Locator) – Unique easily integrated digital automatic system for spotting locations of faults and damages of electric power lines based on T–symmetric functions. Designed to be implemented in electrical grids of various geometry and topology, with overhead, cable or mixed sections. This system significantly decreases the amount of time and resources spent on defining exact locations of faulty sections, and it serves to restore power supply as soon as possible and reduces the risk of accidents in power grids as well as at the facilities powered by them.
The Swiss-Russian Innovation Gala Night

The 8th ceremony of the Swiss–Russian Innovation Award, the Suvorov Prize, took place in Moscow 22 October 2018 in the Congress Centre of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (6/1, Ilyinka st., Moscow, 109012, Russia).

The Swiss Ambassador, Yves Rossier, opened the ceremony. The event was held under the auspices of the Swiss Embassy in Moscow, the Department of Economy, Labour and Employment of the Canton of Zurich, the Federal Chamber of Lawyers of the Russian Federation and the Fund for the Promotion of innovation (FASIE). Given the increasing success of the project, we get more media support on the national and international levels.

Nils Gebhardt, Managing Director of Park Innovare, Switzerland, addressed an important subject: *Cluster, Ecosystem or High Tech Valley – How innovation is organised in a contemporary way*. The ceremony ended with an exhibition of materials contributed to Swiss–Russian historical cooperation and networking.

The ceremony ended with the aperitif and the exhibition of materials contributed to the Swiss–Russian historical cooperation and networking engagement.
3 Programme Law and Finances

The Federal Russian Lawyers Chamber and the regional associates dealt with a number of new laws and law changes in 2018. As in the years before, the automatic information exchange was on the agenda in the interest of both countries. Commercial arbitration and business solutions were much in demand in education and training.

Yearly Seminar for Russian Lawyers

Date: October 1–3, 2018
Venue: Swiss Bar Association (Marktgasse, 4, 3001 Bern)

In September, the seminar opened its doors for the 11th time and offered participants the opportunity to get in touch and exchange information with some of the best European lawyers to improve their qualification and acquire up-to-date information. The event was organised by the SRF in cooperation with the Federal Russian Chamber of Lawyers and the Swiss Bar Association.

The group of participants in the meeting in Bern included lawyers from Moscow, Samara, Omsk, Stavropol, Podolsk and St Petersburg.

For the Russian representatives, a number of workshops were conducted in partnership with authoritative law offices: Kessler Landolt Giacomini, PwC, Wenger & Vieli Ltd and the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration.

The seminars were dedicated to the Swiss law system and basic rules of arbitrage, arbitrage and alternative business solutions, practical aspects of post-reform arbitrage in Russia, automatic information exchange, and global tendencies in international taxation. Discussions were added by exchange of practical cases from both sides.
The Russian Lawyers also visited the Swiss Federal Palace where they met with Christa Markwalder, former President of The National Council, Deputy of the Swiss Parliament, and they discussed the particularities of the political system of Switzerland.

At the end, the participants received certificates from Urs Haegi, President of the Swiss Bar Association, as participation in the seminars is accepted as a 24-hour compulsory education and professional skills qualification improvement.

We thank all our partners and participants for taking part in the seminar.

St. Petersburg International Law Forum (SPBILF)

In connection with the 8th St. Petersburg international legal forum, Yuri Pilipenko met representatives of the delegations of lawyers from Switzerland. They discussed issues of cooperation, current problems and challenges faced by the lawyers of these countries, and the draft Concept of regulation of the market of professional legal assistance.

At a business breakfast with the President of the Swiss Bar Association, Urs Haegi (member of the Council of the Russian Federation), a preliminary agreement was reached on the participation of representatives of the Russian legal community in the legal weeks in Switzerland.

In particular, after the disclosure of the so-called Panama Dossier, opinions began to emerge on the need to change the provision of attorney-client privilege. Urs Haegi spoke about the hard work of the legal community with representatives of the Legislative and Executive.
4 Programme Public Health

The Health Programme is a platform for cooperation in the field of public health which was established in 2011 to meet the growing demand for cooperation on both sides. The main activity in this area is the yearly Swiss-Russian Health Forum (SRHF) Conference.

The purpose of the project is to promote and enforce information and knowledge exchange focusing on interdisciplinary and intercultural communication, public diplomacy and networking. It also seeks to facilitate access to markets by offering insight into legal, economic and political systems and wide professional networks.

Among activities of the SRF Public Health Programme are the organisation and support of interdisciplinary scientific, technological and business cooperation, knowhow exchange, joint programmes and projects, networking, as well as the facilitation of interaction with authorities, public and private sectors, academia, industry, professional communities and the broad public.

Three pillars of the Health Programme

*Cooperation:* Scientific and technical cooperation and exchange on priority domains of public health and clinical medicine;

*Sharing:* Experience and knowhow on health systems and service delivery issues;

*Linking:* Swiss and Russian health authorities, healthcare professionals, researchers and academics, the pharma and med-tech industries with the respective healthcare markets.

5th Swiss-Russian Health Forum Conference

On September 21–22, 2018, Sechenov University hosted the 5th Swiss-Russian Health Forum organised by the Swiss-Russian Forum Foundation and Sechenov University with the support of the Swiss multinational healthcare company Roche.

Topics of the conference

The range of topics discussed was diverse under the main theme *Medical Education, Translational Medicine, Digital Health: Addressing Challenges of the Future Today.*

During these sessions, a number of questions were addressed. Among them: development of the advanced technological solutions in the field of medicine, e-health education, the biotechnology sector, the digitalisation of healthcare, personalised medicine, healthcare quality and patient safety.

A series of round tables were held where professionals discussed numerous particular achievements as well as the Swiss-Russian cooperation in the fields of multiple sclerosis, cancer immunotherapy, breast cancer, haemophilia, neurorehabilitation, and others.
The plenary session dedicated to the opening was attended by:

- Peter Glybochko, Member Russian Academy of Science, Rector Sechenov University
- Yves Rossier, Swiss Ambassador to the Russian Federation
- Béatrice Lombard–Martin, Founder and President Organisation SRF
- Nora Kronig Romero, Ambassador, Deputy Director Swiss Federal Office of Health
- Dmitry Morozov, Chairman of State Duma Committee on Health Protection, Head Department of Pediatric Surgery and Urology of MSMU Sechenov
- Igor Kagramanyan, First Deputy Chairman, Federation Council Committee on Social Policy
- Tatyana Semenova, Director Department of Medical Education and Personnel Policy in Healthcare of the Russian Ministry of Health
- Nenad Pavletich, General Director Roche Russia

The forum received a wide coverage in professional media outlets as well as in the related areas of the professionals involved.

*General Partner:* ROCHE Russia

*Partners:*  
AIPM – Association of International Pharmaceutical Manufacturers  
Zihlschlacht – Neurological Rehabilitation Center  
Quorus – Swiss–Russian Management and Consultancy Company

**Review Programme Health 2018**

Symposium *Swiss Neuro Meets Moscow* at the 14th International Neurological Conference, 9 February 2018, Moscow (sponsored by Rehaclinic Zihlschlacht).

Russia *Special Guest of Honour* at the 7th Geneva Health Forum, 10–12 April 2018.

Attendance at *Sechenov International Biomedical Summit*, Moscow, 21–23 Mai 2018.


Attendance at the 260th Anniversary Celebrations of *Sechenov University*, October 12, 2018.
Speaking at the Round Table on the International Cooperation of Russia in the Field of Health and Pharma at the 2nd International Health Investment Forum, 29 November 2018, Sechenov University, Moscow.

Organising and facilitating collaboration of Sechenov University with Swiss Universities and University Hospitals:

- Meetings Zurich University and Comprehensive Cancer Centre, February 2018;
- Meetings with Geneva University and Geneva University Hospitals, April 2018;
- Lectures on Pulmonology by Bern University at Sechenov University, May 2018, resulting in a proposal to establish Joint Swiss–Russian Centre of Excellence in Pulmonology;
- Meetings with the Zurich University Hospital, Comprehensive Cancer Centre Zurich and Radio–Oncology Centre Aarau, August 2018;
- Cooperation in Neurology between Bern University and Sechenov University;
- Joint project on Lung Cancer Registry between Sechenov Centre of Personalised Oncology and Comprehensive Cancer Centre Zurich.

5 Programme Politics and Society

Due to a sequence of disturbing events, activities in this area were put on hold in 2018. Nonetheless, 2019 promises a bright revival and interesting guests!

We will inform you on upcoming Matrioshka Dialogues, stay with us in 2019!

6 Prospects 2019

Among priorities for the next year

- Expansion of the extent of the SRF Health Programme in order to catch up the strategy Investing in Nation’s Healthy Future and Sustainable Demographic Development after the suspension caused by the sanctions break in 2014;
- Society and Politics: a comeback of Matrioshka Dialogues;
- Chamber of Commerce introduces new services and increases its scope;
7 Planned Events For 2019

March Matrioshka Dialogue with Evgeni Kasperky, Head, Kaspersky Lab., ETH Zurich tbc.

April 15 Matrioshka Dialogue with Yves Rossier, Ambassador of Switzerland to Russia, Zurich

May 14–18 St. Petersburg International Law Forum (SPBILF)*

June 06–08 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF)*

June International Seminar for Russian Lawyers / Blockchain / International Taxation, Zurich & Bern

June 20–23 Oncology Congress “White Nights”, St. Petersburg

Sept 04–06 The Eastern Economic Forum, Vladivostok*

Sept 19–20 Swiss Russian Health Forum, Moscow (TBC)

Oct 01–05 Russian Energy Forum, St. Petersburg*

October Matrioshka Dialogue

October 3–day Seminar for Russian lawyers, Bern

Nov 11 Suvorov Award Ceremony: Swiss–Russian Innovation Gala Night, in Moscow

The planning is still going on. Please visit our website regularly and read our emails on upcoming events