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| **EN*****European Economic and Social Committee*** | ***Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation*** |

**7th JOINT SEMINAR OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE CIVIC CHAMBER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**EU-Russia Cooperation in the areas of Higher Education and Rural Development**

**27 September 2017, 12.00 – 18.30 | EESC meeting room JDE 63**

*DRAFT PROGRAMME*

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| **12.15** | Welcome session*Co-chairs: EESC President Georges Dassis and CCRF Secretary Valery Fadeev** **Mr Georges Dassis**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
* **Mr Valery Fadeev**, Secretary, Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation
* **Mr Vladimir A. Chizov**,Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the European Union
* **Mr Luc Devigne**, Director for Russia, Eastern Parnership, Central Asia and OSCE, European External Action Service
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| **13.00** | Lunch break |
| **14.30-16.00** | **Theme I:****EU-Russia cooperation in the field of higher education, science, research and innovation** |
| **14.30** | *Session 1: EU-Russia cooperation in the areas of science, research and innovation**Chair: Ms Dilyana Slavova, President of the External Relations Section, EESC** **Mr Gediminas Ramanauskas**, Russia Desk, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
* **Mr Alexander Rusakov**, member of the Commission on Education and Science, CCRF, Rector of the P.G. Demidov Yaroslavl State University
* **Mr Juraj Sipko**, member of the EESC and Director of the Economic Institute at the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Debate |
| **15.15** | *Session 2: Aligning higher education in the EU and Russia – the Bologna Process, and cooperation under Erasmus+**Mr Alexander Rusakov, member of the Commission on Education and Science, CCRF, Rector of the P.G.Demidov Yaroslavl State University** **Ms Kamila Partyka**, Unit C.3 – International Cooperation, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
* **Ms Tatiana Babrauskiene**,member of the EESC representing the Lituanian Education Trade Union
* **Mr Alexander Rusakov**, member of the Commission on Education and Science, CCRF, Rector of the P.G. Demidov Yaroslavl State University

Debate |
| **16.00** | Coffee break |
| **16.15-18.15** | **Theme II****Economic Development in Rural Areas**  |
| **16.15** | *Session 3: Narrowing the gaps between rural and urban areas**Chair: Mr Stéphane Buffetaut, member of the EESC** **Ms Evgenia Uvarkina**, Chair of the Commission on Agricultural Sector and Development of Rural Areas, CCRF, member of the Board of the nonprofit organization ’National Milk Producers Union’
* **Mr Andrey Maximov**, Chair of the Commission on Territorial Development and Local Government, CCRF, Chairman of the Expert Council of the corporate nonprofit organization ’Union of Russian Cities’
* **Professor Gérard-François Dumont**, Rector, Department of Geography, Université de Paris IV-Sorbonne
* **Ms Dilyana Slavova**, President of the External Relations Section, European Economic and Social Committee

Debate |
| **17.30** | *Session 4: Cross-border cooperation for Businesses and SMEs**Chair: Mr Igor Shpektor, Chair of the Commission on Housing and Public Utilities, Construction and Roads, CCRF, President of the Union of Cities of the North of the Arctic Circle and the Far North** **Representative DG REGIO** on cross-border cooperation programmes with Russia *(tbc)*
* **Ms Liisa Holmberg**, rector of the Sami Educational Institute, responsible for implementation of the Neda-Ordym project,financed under the Kolarctic cross-border cooperation programme
* **Mr Aurel Laurenţiu Plosceanu**, member of the EESC representing the Romanian Construction Entrepreneurs Association (ARACO) *(tbc)*
* **Mr Igor Shpektor**, Chair of the Commission on Housing and Public Utilities, Construction and Roads, CCRF, President of the Union of Cities of the North of the Arctic Circle and the Far North

Debate |
| **18.15** | Conclusions* **Mr Sergey Ordzhonikidze**, Deputy Secretary of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation
* **Mr Markus Penttinen**, President of the Russia Follow-up Committee, European Economic and Social Committee
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| **18.30** | End of programme |

***Interpreting from EN, FR and RU into EN, FR and RU***