



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ

8th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15-18 May 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

Programme

Tue, 15 May

Theme: *Exploring the Environment*

First half of the day Arrival of participants, registration

3 p.m. – 6 p.m. *Events by Forum Members*

Public Participation in the Radioactive and Communal Waste Management

Venue: **Za Zemyata** (24, Krastyo Sarafov St., 1164 Sofia)

EU-Russia Legal Dialogue Networking Meeting

Venue: **Centre for the Study of Democracy**
(5, Alexander Zhendov St., 1113 Sofia)

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Site Visits

Citizen Participation Forum

(3, Hristo Belchev St., 1000 Sofia)

Red House

(15, Ljuben Karavelov St., 1142 Sofia)

In parallel

*Ad-hoc Sessions of Working (Expert) Groups & new initiatives /
Board Meeting*

7 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Public Event

Going Hand in Hand? Energy and Corruption in the EU and Russia

Venue: **Red House** (15, Ljuben Karavelov St., 1142 Sofia)

- How do the energy decisions affect the corruption behaviour in the EU and Russia and vice-versa?
- What is the state of the art in Bulgaria and the South-East of Europe?
- To which extent may the EU be independent of the Russian commodities? Is a turn from the fossil fuels to renewables possible?

Speakers:

Daniel Kaddik, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (Bulgaria)

Anastasia Kirilenko, Independent Journalist, Forum Fighting Transborder Corruption Expert Group (Russia/France)

Mikhail Krutikhin, RusEnergy (Moscow, Russia)

Martin Vladimirov, Centre for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria)

Moderation:

Harry Hummel, Netherlands Helsinki Committee / Forum Board Member (Netherlands)

Wed, 16 May

Theme: *Values We Share*

Venue: **Park Hotel Moskva** (25, Nezabravka St., 1142 Sofia)

8.30 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. *Registration*

9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. *Welcome Session*

Introductory remarks. Presentation of the agenda.

Keynote Speeches:

Raimondo Bussi, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments,
European Commission

Marcelina Zawisza, civic activist, Co-Founder of the “Razem”
Party, Co-Organiser of the “Black Protest” (Poland)

Moderation: **Ralph du Long**, Forum Board Co-Chair
(Netherlands)

10.30 a.m. – 12 p.m. *Panel Discussion 1*

**Bridging the Gap: Bulgaria and Its First Decade in the
European Union**

- What are achievements and underperformance indicators throughout the last decade in Bulgaria?
- How far was the civil society involved in shaping the agenda for the Bulgarian Presidency in the EU?
- What are the lessons learnt to be taken into the next decade?

Speakers:

Toma Belev, “For the Nature” Coalition

Jordan Karabinov, Anticorruption Fund

Mariana Katarova, Society for Justice Foundation / RAW in
WAR

Irina Nedeva, Association of European Journalists – Bulgaria

Moderation:

Ksenia Vakhrusheva, BELLONA / Forum Board Member (St.
Petersburg, Russia)

12 p.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Break

12.30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Panel Discussion 2

Which Way to Go? Civil Society in Today's Russia

- Which positive factors affect today's situation of the civil society in Russia?
- Have been there any new forms of civic engagement evolved in the last years? What is the role of younger generation?
- Which changes to expect after the Presidential Election? Positive and negative agenda 2018-2020.

Inputs:

Alexander Kolotov, Plotina.Net (Krasnoyarsk, Russia)

Alexei Kozlov, SOLIDARUS / Forum Board Member (Germany)

Evgenia Verba, Sluzhenie Association (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia)

Natalia Zviagina, International Youth Human Rights Movement (Voronezh, Russia)

General Discussion

Comment by **Viacheslav Bakhmin**, Moscow Helsinki Group / Committee of Civic Initiatives (Moscow, Russia)

Moderation:

Pavel Andreev, 7x7 (Syktyvkar, Russia)

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Lunch

In parallel

Media Lunch

Bringing Back the Rule of Law to Europe?

Bulgaria – Russia - EU

- What is the current situation with the civil society in Bulgaria, Russia, and the EU?
- Which instruments are at the disposal of international organisations to improve the state of the art – in the Council of Europe, the European Union, the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum?
- Where is the international civil society heading?

Speakers:

Pavel Antonov, BlueLink Foundation (Bulgaria)

Ralph du Long, Forum Board Co-Chair (Netherlands)

Natalia Taubina, Public Verdict Foundation, Forum Board Member (Moscow, Russia)

Marcelina Zawisza, civic activist, Co-Founder of the “Razem” Party, Co-Organiser of the “Black Protest” (Poland)

Moderation:

Sergei Tereshenkov, Forum Secretariat (Germany)

3 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Project Fair

Forum Highlights

Presentation of Forum projects

Moderation:

Élise Daniaud, Forum Secretariat (Germany)

4.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Networking Break: Mingling Internal and External Audiences

*(**CSF members and supporters only**)*

5 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Parallel Sessions of Working (Expert) Groups & New Initiatives

6.30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Outlook Day 2

Introduction to the Voting Package

Speaker:

Yuri Dzhibladze, Centre for Development of Democracy and Human Rights / Forum Board Member (Moscow, Russia)

*(**Open to the public**)*

8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Reception

Venue: **COSMOS Coworking Camp**

(3, Angel Kanchev St., 1000 Sofia)

Speakers:

Sven-Olov Carlsson, EU Delegation to the Russian Federation

Mikhail Fedotov, Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights (Moscow, Russia)

Moderation:

Sergei Tereshenkov, Forum Secretariat (Germany)

Thu, 17 May

Theme: *Partnerships within and beyond the Forum*

Venue: **Park Hotel Moskva** (25, Nezabravka St., 1142 Sofia)

*(**CSF members and supporters only**)*

8.30 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.

Morning Briefing

Q & A on the Forum Financial Report with Milda Bagdonaitė,
Forum Secretariat (Germany), and **Ksenia Vakhrusheva**,
BELLONA / Forum Board Member (Russia)

- Presentation of the highlights of the Financial Report 2017
- Questions and Answers to the content
- Preparation of summary for the plenary session

9.30 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.

Forum at DRA / German-Russian Exchange (2014-2017)

- Appreciation of the contribution of DRA / German-Russian Exchange as the Secretariat headquarters 2014-2017
- Greetings by the Board and the Executive Director
- Response by Stefan Melle on behalf of DRA / German-Russian Exchange

Speakers:

Harry Hummel, Netherlands Helsinki Committee / Forum Board Member (Netherlands)

9.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Plenary Session 1

Annual Report 2017

- Narrative and Financial Report 2017, reports by the Board and by the Secretariat
- Inputs by Forum members, Q & A
- Adoption

Speakers:

Yuri Dzhibladze, Centre for Development of Democracy and Human Rights / Forum Board Member (Moscow, Russia)

Anna Sevortian, Forum Secretariat (Germany)

Moderation:

Anna Skvortsova, NGO Development Centre / Forum Board Member (St. Petersburg, Russia)

11 a.m – 11.30 a.m.

Break

11.30 a.m – 12.30 p.m.

Plenary Session 2

Moving Forward: Forum Re-Launch in 2018

- Presentation of the new legal entity – the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum e.V.
- Changes in comparison to the unregistered organisation. Presentation of the By-Laws
- Questions & Answers

Speakers:

Polina Baigurova, Forum Secretariat (Germany)

Łukasz Wenerski, Forum Board Co-Chair (Poland)

Moderation:

Elena Belokurova, German-Russian Exchange / Forum Board Member (St. Petersburg, Russia)

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Presentation of Candidates for the Board

Moderation:

Grigori Melkonians, GOLOS (Moscow, Russia)

1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

Lunch

2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Sessions of Working (Expert) Groups & New Initiatives (Break Included)

*(**grab a drink before the next session**)*

4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Plenary Session 3

Voting

Organisers:

Grigori Melkonians, GOLOS (Moscow, Russia)

Krzysztof Mrozek, Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland)

Moderation:

Natalia Taubina, Public Verdict Foundation / Forum Board Member (Moscow, Russia)

6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Dinner

*(**Open to the public**)*

8 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.

Public Event

EU-Russia State of Civil Society Report: Challenges and Innovations

Venue: **+tova** (30, Marin Drinov St., 1504 Sofia)

- What were the trends in the European civil society in 2017?
- Which specific development have shown Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, and Russia?
- Where will the civil society in the named countries stand in ten years' time?

Speakers:

Pavel Antonov, BlueLink Foundation (Bulgaria)

Ieva Petronytė-Urbonavičienė, Civil Society Institute (Lithuania)

Simone Poledrini, University of Perugia (Italy)

Yulia Skokova, Higher School of Economics (St. Petersburg, Russia)

Pamala Wiepking, Rotterdam School of Management (Netherlands)

Moderation:

Kristina Smolijanovaitė, Forum Secretariat (Germany)

10 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Secretariat's Open Doors' Night

Fri, 18 May

Theme: *Forming Our Strategy Together*

Venue: **Park Hotel Moskva** (25, Nezabravka St., 1142 Sofia)

*(**CSF members and supporters only**)*

9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Strategy Session Introduction

Speakers:

Igor Ovchinnikov, Golubka Training Centre (Moscow, Russia)

Sebastian Wehrsig, MitOst Association (Berlin, Germany)

10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Strategy Session 1

Group Discussions “Dreaming and Planning”

- Where would we like to be as the Forum in 2021?
- What are our global goals and directions?
- Which programmes and projects would we like to focus on during the Strategy Session 2?

Moderation:

Igor Ovchinnikov, Golubka Training Centre (Moscow, Russia)

Sebastian Wehrsig, MitOst Association (Berlin, Germany)

11.30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Break

12 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Strategy Session 2

Group Discussions “Shaping Programmes and Projects”

- What are our steps towards achievement of goals of the Forum dependent on the programme or project?
- How do these plans correspond to each other within the global Forum framework?
- Who would be in charge for developing the selected directions further on?

Moderation:

Igor Ovchinnikov, Golubka Training Centre (Moscow, Russia)

Sebastian Wehrsig, MitOst Association (Berlin, Germany)

1.30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Wrap-up of the General Assembly

Closing remarks. End of the Assembly

Moderation:

Łukasz Wenerski, Forum Board Co-Chair (Poland)

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Lunch

Departures

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