



2015

ANNUAL REPORT



SPIBA

Saint-Petersburg
International
Business Association





Dear Friends and Colleagues!

2015 was incredibly significant for SPFBА – the organization celebrated its anniversary and, therefore, the year was busier than ever. The absolute highlight for SPFBА was a press breakfast at the Peter and Paul Fortress, where the Association marked its twentieth anniversary with a midday shot from the walls of Naryshkin Bastion.

In this remarkable year, SPFBА continued to carry out its mission and put into practice a number of new projects. During the St. Petersburg Economic Forum the Association organized a meeting with the Deputy Finance Minister of the Russian Federation, Maksim Oresbkin. As a part of a business meeting, we held a business breakfast with a successful entrepreneur, the head of the pharmaceutical company "Solopharm," Oleg Zherebitsov. The first honorary guest of our new project "Celebinar," where we organize meetings with famous people of our city, was a centerback for FC "Zenit," Nicholas Lombaerts.

In addition to official meetings, SPFBА held numerous cultural events. For example, SPFBА members attended a theater premier directed by the artistic director of BDT, Andrey Moguchy. As a first, the Association organized a foot-golf tournament in the "Gorki" golf club, which turned out to be a pleasant sport surprise for the Association's members.

We express our sincere gratitude to the members of SPFBА for their involvement in the events and for their help in realizing our ambitious ideas! Thanks to the energy, integrity and enthusiasm of our members, our plans were made possible and SPFBА continues to move forward toward its goals.

We wish everyone success and prosperity!

Karina Khabacheva
SPFBА Executive Director

Mission of SPIBA



Saint-Petersburg International Business Association (SPIBA) is a non-profit, independent organization which unites foreign and Russian companies that share SPIBA's view and principles.

The St. Petersburg International Business Association (SPIBA) is here to be a strong voice of business in the North-West region of Russia and to facilitate business development for its members by the means of:

- Exchange of information and knowledge;
- Open dialogue and collaboration with the authorities;
- Establishment of business connections in the informal and friendly atmosphere.

In twenty years of existence, since 1995, SPIBA has become a reliable partner for the international business community in North-West Russia. The Association provides a mechanism to bring to light common issues faced by its members in the development of their businesses, as well as to prompt Russian authorities to address their issues. Through the combined efforts of SPIBA's various committees, SPIBA is able to achieve significant results, leading to gradual improvement in the business climate of the region.

Aside from Committees activities, SPIBA organizes General Meetings, conferences, seminars, breakfast briefings, round tables, and business tours. All of the events are dedicated to addressing current issues that directly affect the interests of the Association's members and involve high-level experts and professionals from both government and business. "Look@It" company visits are particularly popular among members and they focus on the success stories of major brands in the Saint-Petersburg market. SPIBA regularly holds "Breakfast with the Director" meetings, where business leaders, top managers and directors are invited to share their rich experience and discuss innovative approaches to business and solutions. In addition to these business events, SPIBA invites members to participate in a range of social events from the traditional "White Nights" Boat Cruise to Get Together parties.

SPIBA Sponsor 2015



SPIBA Executive Committee



Stefan Van Doorslaer
Chairperson of the Executive Committee
General Director, Ahlers CIS & Baltics



Oleg Bokov
CEO of Heineken Brewery
Heineken Breweries LLC



Tatiana Gorovaya
General Manager External
and Government Affairs,
Nissan Manufacturing RUS



Andrei Gusev
Managing Partner
BORENIUS ATTORNEYS RUSSIA LTD



Vladislav Zabrodin
Managing Partner
Capital Legal Services



Elena Marchenko
Head of the Finance Department
and Chief Accountant
BSH Bytowije Pribory



Jarmo Lindholm
General Director and Executive Vice President,
Atria Russia,
OOO Pit Product & OOO Campomos



Sergey Parshin
Cluster Director
Unilever



Karina Chichkanova
Partner
Dentons

SPIBA Industrial Committee



About the Committee:

The Industrial Committee traces, assesses and analyzes major tendencies and problems concerning ecology, labor protection, industrial safety and logistics which can influence the activities of enterprises in the North-West region of Russia.

During the Committee's meetings, discussion is focused on topics such as the creation and operation of production companies and compliance with technical and sanitary norms.

Main goals of the Committee:

- Promotion of efficient working standards in the spheres of ecology, labor protection and industrial safety;
- Active participation in the development of laws, instructions and standards regarding ecology, labor protection and industrial safety;
- Organisation of meetings and events related to the subject of relevant logistical questions, efficiency of production, equipment safety, and customs issues.

Co-chairmen of the Committee in 2015:



Victoria Afanasyeva,
Nissan Manufacturing Rus



Peeter Kehva,
Smurfit Kappa St. Petersburg



Ivan Osipov,
Pilz Russia

Working Group on Logistics:



Olga Nekrasova,
Ahlers CIS & Baltics



Konstantin Krotov,
Graduate School of Management SPbU

Industrial Committee Sponsor:



SPIBA HR Committee



About the Committee:

The SPIBA HR Committee is a forum for the exchange of experience and opinions of HR managers, business representatives and public authorities.

Participants of Committee meetings include representatives of industrial companies, recruiting agencies and training companies, as well as professors of leading universities and business schools, lawyers and experts in human resource management and, labor and immigration legislation.

Main goals of the Committee:

- Support to members of the Association in search of solutions to problems related to provision of qualified labor resources;
- Discussion of relevant questions regarding the work of HR services: staff motivation, education and training, labor legislation;
- Exchange of experience, knowledge and specific company case studies.

Co-chairmen of the Committee in 2015:



Yaroslava Vasilieva,
Nissan Manufacturing Rus



Alexander Korkin,
Pepeliaev Group



Timur Komarov,
Unilever

HR Committee Sponsor:



SPIBA Marketing & Communications Committee



About the Committee:

The SPIBA Marketing & Communications Committee is a team of active, caring professionals, who understand the goals, objectives and needs of the communications sphere and who unite leading specialists in various business spheres.

Main goals of the Committee:

- Integration of specialists in marketing and communications from various economic sectors for experience sharing;
- Attraction of leading Russian specialists to address key questions and provide guidance for development of the industry.

Co-chairmen of the Committee in 2015:



Veronika Voinovian,
BORENIUS ATTORNEYS RUSSIA LTD



Irina Koshelkova,
BC Communications



Ekaterina Ena,
EMG



Iya Adrianova,
Raiffeisenbank



SPIBA Legislation & Lobbying Committee

About the Committee:

The SPIBA Legislation & Lobbying Committee traces its existence back to the moment the Association was founded in 1995. Activities of the Committee include advancement of the legislative base, creation of favorable conditions for business and improvement of the investment climate in North-West Russia.

Discussions are held with the participation of leading international and Russian law firms and representatives of relevant public authorities.

Main goals of the Committee:

- Identification of production, trade and tax legislation issues faced by companies in North-West Russia and cooperation in resolving these issues on behalf of SPIBA members;
- Improvement of the investment climate in North-West Russia;
- Support of companies in their adaptation to changes in Russian legislation;
- Cooperation with local and federal authorities in advancing recommendations and initiatives of SPIBA.

Co-chairmen of the Committee in 2015:



Leida Lukianova,
Baker&McKenzie



Igor Gorokhov,
Capital Legal Services



Nina Boer,
Iusland Law Offices



Ilya Kotov,
Dentons

Legislation & Lobbying Committee Sponsor:

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SPIBA Finance Committee



About the Committee:

The SPIBA Finance Committee unites professionals in the fields of finance, taxation and accounting.

Activities and topics of the Committee include finance management, application of tax legislation, financial state of the Russian economy, accounting, international standards of accounting and currency legislation.

Main goals of the Committee:

- Creation of a platform for exchange of experience and information among colleagues and demonstration of the fact, that companies can and must be financially successful when in compliance with all provisions of Russian legislation;
- Providing recommendations in optimization and advancement of business-processes of various companies, improvement of the organizational efficiency and cost reduction.

Co-chairmen of the Committee in 2015:



Elena Barvitskaia,
Taxcom



Elena Zyryanova,
Crédit Agricole CIB



Sergey Popov,
PwC



Yulia Naberezhnaya,
DLA Piper



SPIBA Real Estate & Construction Committee

About the Committee:

The SPIBA Real Estate & Construction Committee actively cooperates with leading organizations which unite professionals and experts of real estate and related markets; and increases the attractiveness of SPIBA in the real estate and construction market.

Main goals of the Committee:

- Unifying the needs of SPIBA members in order to establish legislative initiatives and present them to the executive authorities;
- Informing SPIBA members about current trends in the real estate market and changes in relevant legislation;
- Holding meetings and seminars for SPIBA's members with the participation from leading market professionals with the aim of discussing topical issues, concerning creation, acquisition and utilization of the real estate objects.

Co-chairmen of the Committee in 2015:



Dmitry Kozunov,
Colliers International



Alexander Parshukov,
VTB Development



Evgeny Druzhinin,
Maxima Legal



Olga Uryupinskaya,
Dentons

Real Estate & Construction Sponsor:



SPIBA Quality of Life Committee

About the Committee:

Activities of SPIBA Quality of Life Committee are focused on issues related to social problems, education and leisure. An essential component of the Committee's work is providing access to cultural heritage.

The Committee also organizes and holds various meetings and events, dedicated to social, cultural and ecological projects.



Main goals of the Committee:

- Improvement of social communications , establishment of acceptable and effective communications and mutual interests;
- Provision of freedom of activity and choice in leisure, level of education and access to cultural heritage.

Co-chairmen of the Committee in 2015:



Larisa Konashenok,
The State Hermitage Museum Official Hotel
in St Petersburg



Key events in 2015

2015 was marked with numerous interesting and memorable events, which, undoubtedly, left their mark on the history of the Association. All in all, there were over 120 events held by SPIBA. We are pleased to present you with the key events of the last year.





Press breakfast with participation of media representatives and members of the SPIBA Executive Committee, and the ceremony of a midday cannon shot, dedicated to the twentieth anniversary of SPIBA.





SPIBA 20th Anniversary General Meeting



Key events in 2015: SPIBA General meetings



SPIBA General Meeting with Elena Ulyanova, the Chairman of the Economic Politics and Strategic Planning Committee in Saint-Petersburg, and Alexey Korabelnikov, the Chairman of the Finance Committee in Saint-Petersburg.



SPIBA General Meeting with Denis Pavshinskiy, Director of Aviation & Aerodrome Management, Northern Capital Gateway.



SPIBA Annual Meeting with Maxim Oreshkin, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Russian Federation.

Key events in 2015:

Meetings with the representatives of public authorities



A meeting with Maxim S. Oreshkin,
Deputy Minister of Finance of the
Russian Federation

On the 18th of June there was a meeting of Maxim Oreshkin, the Deputy Minister of Finance, with the business community of Saint-Petersburg in Saint-Petersburg State University.

Speaking at the Graduate School of Management of Saint-Petersburg State University, Maxim Oreshkin continued discussion from the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on the current state of the Russian financial sphere.



Maxim Oreshkin spoke about the influence of the decline in oil prices and imposition of anti-Russian sanctions on the Russian economy. Additionally, the Deputy Minister announced a number of measures, that are being taken to stabilize the country's economy.

The speaker pointed out the importance of reducing oil and gas dependence and the need to develop high-tech exports, as well as import substitution of consumer goods.



Key events in 2015:

Meetings with the representatives of public authorities



Elena Dunaeva,
the Head of the Federal Migration Service
in St. Petersburg and Leningrad region.



Dmitry Cherneiko,
the Chairman of the Committee on Labor
and Employment of St. Petersburg.



Anton Kuskov,
the Deputy Chief of Department of supervision
and preventive work of the Northwest regional
emergency center.



Vadim Vladimirov,
the Head of St. Petersburg Federal Antimonopoly
Service of Russia.

Key events in 2015:

Events for expats



During the year SPIBA held a number of events "Expat life in Russia: guidelines to success", which were organized specially for foreign managers who live in Russia. Meetings involve discussions of current issues that foreigners face in Russia, including labor market trends, changes in migration legislation, cross-cultural differences in doing business and other relevant topics.



Key events in 2015:

Breakfast with director
and Look@It



Andrea Pal,
Deputy General Director for Finance and
Information Technologies of Pulkovo airport



Vladimir Himanych,
Managing HR Director,
Raiffeisenbank



Look@Hyundai



Oleg Zherebtsov,
General Director of pharmaceutical company
Solopharm

Key events in 2015:

Events with Consulates General



Filip Cumps,
the Consul General of Belgium Seminar:
"Russia today: review of economic situation"



Event in Consulate General of Finland
in St. Petersburg: "Saint Petersburg Business
Climate and Recent Changes in the Legal
Landscape "





In 2015 as part of the SPIBA Quality of Life Committee activities, a new project was put into practice – Celebinar. The first invited guest of Celebinar was the centerback of FC “Zenit” Nicolas Lombaerts.

During the event, Nicholas spoke about his professional success, his work experience in FC “Zenit” and relationships with his colleagues and coach. He also shared his opinion of life in Saint Petersburg, his favorite places in the city and cross-cultural differences between Russia and Belgium.



Key events in 2015:

SPIBA White Nights Boat Cruise



On June 26th 2015, following its longstanding tradition, SPIBA held the White Nights Boat Cruise. Members and guests of the Association had an amazing time on the boat, enjoying picturesque views of St.Petersburg during the White Nights season. Some of the participants were lucky enough to win in the lottery of prizes.



Regular Members

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DLA Piper	Sokos Hotels
Domina Prestige	St.Petersburg State University of Economics
EMG	Statoil Fuel & Retail Russia
Fast Lane	Stockholm School of Economics in St.Petersburg
Taxcom	Subway
Fortrent	Talent-Q
General Motors Auto	Technopolis-Saint-Petersburg
Gorki Golf Club	The State Hermitage Museum Official Hotel
Graduate School of Management SPB University	Thomas International
Hays	Tikkurila
Heineken Breweries	Transas
Higher School of Economics	Transoil
HRS	Unilever
Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus	URSA Eurasia
HZPC Sadokas	Veeam Software
Indigo Hotel St.Petersburg	Ventra
IKEA	Vertical Aparthotel (NAI Becar)
	Vlerick Business School
	Wrigley
	YIT
	Zgroup

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French Consulate Commercial Section
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Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (I.C.E.)
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Russian-German Chamber of Commerce
St. Petersburg Trade Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Commercial Service, Consulate General of the USA
Danish Cultural Institute

Acknowledgements

The Association is pleased to acknowledge all the companies who sponsored, supported, and helped organize various SPIBA events in 2015 for their generous contributions that benefit SPIBA members and the business community

SPIBA Sponsor 2015

Pepeliaev Group

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Industrial Committee:

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SPIBA Partners in organization of various events in 2015

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Vlerick Business School

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Iusland Law Offices

Rocco Forte Hotel Astoria

Angleterre Hotel

Domina Prestige Hotel

SPIBA Information Sponsors 2015

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*We express our gratitude to all SPIBA members and our partners
and we hope for further cooperation!*





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