

The Vienna Process (VP) was established as a forum for a meaningful dialogue between the EU and Russia in 2009. Continued until 2013 on an annual basis, it proved to be a venue for the resolution of practical and concrete problems, a business incubator and an institutional arrangement for the informal exchange of ideas. As relations between the West and the Russian Federation soured, voices from both sides accumulated that suggested a resumption of the VP in a new format.

After a break of five years, we were encouraged by our Russian and EU interlocutors to resume the process with an emphasis on the creation of the Eurasian Economic Union. This year, EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn has confirmed his participation as well as the Minister in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission Tatyana Valovaya. The Austrian OSCE Chair has supported our initiative and will be represented at the event, which will also generate inputs into the relevant programming of the Austrian EU Chair in the coming year.

As in the past, the point of departure is the necessity to maintain and, if possible, to boost a meaningful dialogue, having in mind, but factoring out the controversies and differing political standpoints of the sides. The underlying philosophy, then, is to widen the areas of mutual understanding and cooperation over time. This presupposes the search for common grounds, namely a discussion about in which areas a rapprochement is possible. The most likely candidate is business relations which have been left uncontaminated by high politics. The focus of this year's Vienna Process, which is scheduled for December 2017, will therefore be on economic and business relations. Unlike previous events, the time frame will be shortened to 1 ½ days, in order to stimulate a more intensive discussion on predominantly technical issues. Within this broader thematic framework, agriculture and food processing seems to have the highest potential for cooperative ventures, since the sanctions have revealed the necessity for import substitution. The business focus is particularly important in view of possible liberal reforms which are being elaborated by eminent Russian experts.

*Concept by [Ludmilla Lobova](#),  
Scientific Director and Vice-president of ICEUR-Vienna*

**iceur**  
STRATEGIC ANALYSIS  
BUSINESS SUPPORT  
EASTERN EUROPE · CENTRAL ASIA

# VIENNA PROCESS

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting 04-05 December, 2017

IN COOPERATION WITH



**Raiffeisen Bank  
International**



## IN SEARCH OF A NEW BALANCED RELATIONSHIP

The working sessions 04-05 December, 2017  
Conference language: English

## 4 December, 2017

Venue: **Raiffeisen Bank International. (Am Stadtpark 9, 1030 Wien)**

### 17:00 Opening and welcome

*Hans-Georg Heinrich. Professor, Vice-president and manager, ICEUR Vienna. Moderation*

*Hannes Swoboda. President of ICEUR-Vienna,*

*Former chairman, parliamentary fraction of the European Socialist Party*

*Michael Ludwig. Executive City Councilor for Residential construction and urban renewal, Vienna*

*Vladislav Maslennikov. Deputy Director of the Dep. of European Cooperation, MFA, RF*

*Ursula Fahringer. Envoy, MFA, Austria*

*Dmitrii Lyubinski. Ambassador of the RF to Austria*

*Florian Raunig. Head, Task Force, OSCE Chair*

*Emil Brix. Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna*

*Michael Löwy. Head of international relations, Federation of Austrian Industries*

### Keynote lectures

**“The Crisis of Democratic Institutions: the Search for a New Model”**

*Erhard Busek. President of ICEUR-Vienna, Former Vice-Premier of Austria*

**“Developments in Europe”**

*Ekaterina Schulmann. School of Public Policy,*

*Russian Academy of national Economy and Public Affairs under the President*

**“The evolutionary dynamic of Russian governmental institutions”**

### 20:00 Reception.

Venue: **City Hall Vienna (Lichtenfelsgasse 2, 1010 Wien)**

Opening and welcome by *Kurt Stürzenbecher (Municipal councilor, Vienna)*  
and *Hans-Georg Heinrich*

## 5 December, 2017

Venue: **Raiffeisen Bank International (Am Stadtpark 9, 1030 Wien)**

### 9:30-9:45

*Emil Brix. Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.*

### 9:45-11:15

*Moderation by Emil Brix*

*Aleksander Murychev. Executive Vice President, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs*

**“The state of the business environment and financial sector: perception of Russian enterprises”**

*Gunter Deuber. Senior Director, Head of Economics/Fixed Income/FX Research, Raiffeisen Bank International AG*

**“Russia: Markets, bank exposures and sanctions - a practitioner’s view”**

*Bernadette M. Gierlinger. Vice Minister, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy*

**“Trade with Russia: recent developments and future perspectives”**

*Evsey Gurvich. Head of the Economic Expert Group,*

*Deputy Head of the Public Council at the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation*

**“The impact of financial sanctions on the Russian economy”**

*Mikhail Dmitriev. President, Partnership “New Economic Growth”*

**“Post-Election Russia: Economic Policy and Political environment”**

### 11:15-11:45 Coffee break

### 11:45-13:00

*Moderation by Hannes Swoboda*

*Sergei Medvedev. Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Political Science HSE*

**“The search for a new Russian national ideology and European values”**

*Stephan Barisitz. Research Economist, Austrian National Bank*

**“The New Silk Road”**

### Discussion

### 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

### 14:00-14:30 Special Feature: European Union

*Johannes Hahn. EU Commissioner for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations*

### 14:30-15:00 Special Feature: Eurasian Economic Union and Russian Federation

*Tatyana Valovaya. Member of the Board - Minister in charge of Integration*

*and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission*

*Vladislav Maslennikov. Deputy Director of the Dep. of European Cooperation, MFA, RF*

### 15:00-16:30 Business climate in Russian regions

*Moderation by Hans-Georg Heinrich*

*Natalya Zubarevich. Professor of Social and Economic Geography, Moscow State University*

**“The main drivers and dynamics of Russian regional development: does business climate matter?”**

*Petr Havlik. Senior economist, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies,*

*The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.*

**“Challenges of Eurasian Economic Integration”**

### Discussion

### 16:30-16:40 Coffee break

### 16:40-18:00 Russian domestic politics and its impact on relations with the EU

*Nikolay Petrov. Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Political Science HSE*

**“Power struggle within the Russian elites”**

*Alexey Malashenko. Chief Researcher, Dialogue of Civilizations Institute*

**“The Islamic factor in EU-Russia relations”**

### Comments and moderation

*Franz Cede. Former Austrian ambassador to the RF and NATO,*

*Senior Advisor at the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy / AIES/*

### Discussion

### 18:00-18:20 Closing remarks, summaries

*Festive buffet*

*Language: English*