

GLOBAL POLICY FORUM ASSERTS ITSELF

Vladislav Inozemtsev

EX OFFICIO

The end of June saw the conclusion of a series of events dedicated to the presentation of the Third Global Policy Forum, which is scheduled to take place on September 6-8, 2011 in Yaroslavl. The last such event took place on June 22-23 in Brussels and was organised by the Directorship of the Global Policy Forum, in collaboration with the EU-Russia Foundation and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

The discussion of the issues that are to be tackled at the Forum began in the course of the welcome dinner, held on June 22. From the Russian side, Governor of the Yaroslavl Region Sergei Vakhrukov and the Head of the Directorship of Global Policy Forum, each delivered speeches and Gunnar Wiegand, the Head of the Russia-CIS Direction of the EU Foreign Policy Office and Fraser Cameron, Head of the EU-CIS Centre, delivered speeches from the European side. The common leitmotif of the event was reminiscences and reflections in relation to the sombre 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War (World War II). The Russian and European participants remembered the historical events and stressed the importance of strengthening the institutional foundations of European integration and deepening cooperation between the EU and Russia, which should serve as factors capable of preventing the repeat of similar tragedies. They stressed that Europe is united in its cultural foundations, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and that this unity should also be enacted in the economic and political spheres.

The main part of the event began on June 23 and continued with breaks from 9:15 to 18:00. The moderators had difficulties keeping speakers within the time limit, because the participants (in the course of the main part of the discussion, they numbered around 60) expressed keen interest and tried to manage to present their questions



VLADISLAV INOZEMTSEV is the Head of Executive Directorate of the Global Policy Forum in Yaroslavl. He is a Professor of Economics and the Director of the Centre for Post-Industrial Studies, as well as the Editor-in-chief of the monthly periodical 'Svobodnaya Mysl'

and also formulate their points of views on the issues being discussed.

Upon giving the inaugural speech at the event, the Governor of the Yaroslavl Region, Sergei Vakhrukov, emphasised the importance of the Global Policy Forum for the Russian regions. 'The upcoming discussion, which is dedicated to the issues of social diversity, is also of imminent importance for us because today we are trying to actively implement high standards of living in the Yaroslavl Region. This is not only about beautifying streets, buildings and monuments, but also creating comfortable conditions in the social, health and educational spheres,' the Governor stated. The Head of the Directorship of Global Policy Forum informed the audience that, during the two previous sessions of the Yaroslavl Forum, the discussions covered such issues as global security, standards of democracy, and the criteria for the efficiency of the modern state. The upcoming

forum, which will be dedicated to the problems of social diversity in modern states, will bring together around 500 people, including more than 130 foreign experts, including a number of Nobel laureates, famous former politicians and major scientists. The Director of the EU-Russia Centre, Fraser Cameron, underlined that the Global Policy Forum has the chance of becoming a perfect platform for the discussion of a wide scope of economic challenges that are faced by Russia and Europe. According to this expert, too much time is wasted on the difficulties arising between the EU and Russia, such as migration and socioeconomic changes.

In the course of the four sessions of this event, speeches were delivered by a number of experts, as follows:

Valery Tishkov, Director of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow); Anatolij Vishnevskij, Director of the Institute of Demography at the National Research University - Higher School of Economics; Rainer Munz, Head of Research at Erste Bank AG in Vienna; Elizabeth Collett, European Policy Fellow and Senior Advisor to the Migration Policy Institute's Transatlantic Council on Migration (Brussels); Sir Tony Brenton, British Ambassador to Russia for the period 2004-2008 and a Fellow of Wolfson College (University of Cambridge); Sinan Iblgen, Chairman of the Istanbul-based Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM); Olga Allenova, Special Correspondent for the Kommersant Publishing House; Karel Kovanda, Deputy Director General of External Relations at the European Commission in 2005-2010 (Bratislava); Richard Youngs, Director General of Fundaciyn para las Relaciones Internacionales (Madrid); Vladislav Inozemtsev,

Continuing on p.8 >>

FORUM NEEDS A MORE INTERACTIVE FORMAT



RICHARD SAKWA

is a political scientist, Professor of Russian and European Politics, and the Head of the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent (UK). He has published extensively on Soviet, Russian and post-communist affairs, and has written and edited several books and articles on the subject, including the book 'Putin: Russia's Choice' (2006). Participant in the Global Policy Forum in Yaroslavl.

Exclusively for the Yaroslavl Forum

I thought that the two forums that I attended were a fantastic opportunity to meet people who share similar concerns. **It was excellent that a range of Russian political scientists and scholars in general were invited. I very much enjoyed talking with them, and exchanging views.** In many ways, this was perhaps the most valuable part of the Forum. It was also good to see and talk with politicians, media individuals and others from Eastern Europe and other countries. In general, the technical organisation of the Forum was excellent. I think all the participants of the Forum were looked

after very well - I certainly was, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude in this relation.

I am also very happy that Yaroslavl is the venue for the Forum. The anniversary celebrations of the city last year were very moving. **The city is not too far from Moscow and, at the same time, leaving Moscow allows a certain distance for reflection and perspective.**

The quality of the plenary speeches, of course, was very uneven (and I do not only mean Berlusconi's strange speech). I think that some more attention needs to be devoted to this issue.

I think the perennial issue is the rather formalistic style of discussion in the sections. I understand that it is extremely difficult to organise an effective interchange of views with such a large number of people involved, but **I am sure that a rather more interactive format could be devised to bring a larger number of participants into the discussion.**

There is also the issue of false expectations. Once again, I understand the problems associated with organising such a large forum, but over the course of the last two years, those who, in the end, were not chosen to make formal presentations nevertheless were asked to prepare the theses for their putative talks. This led to the natural assumption that they would be asked to speak, and when they were not, this led to disappointment. It would be best simply to choose who will speak at the Forum, and not make such a request from those who will have to remain silent. ■

GLOBAL POLICY FORUM ASSERTS ITSELF

<< *For beginning see p.3*

Head of Executive Directorate of the Yaroslavl Forum (Moscow); Vladimir Baranovsky, Deputy Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow); Pirkka Tapiola of the Strategic Planning Division at the European External Action Service (Brussels); Marie Mendras, Professor of Political Science at the Centre for International Studies and Research, University of Paris (France); Pierre Defraigne, Executive Director of the Madariaga - College of Europe Foundation (Brussels); Steven Fidler, Head of The Wall Street Journal bureau in Brussels; Igor Nikolaev, Director of FBK's Strategic Analysis Department (Moscow); and Grzegorz Gorzelak, Director of the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies, (Warsaw).

Each session was dedicated to dis-

cussing the issues of common interest to Russia and the European Union, which have become more pressing in the wake of the global economic crisis.

In fact, for the first time during the presentation of the Global Policy Forum, a full-fledged international discussion took place, which was effectively a sort of mini-forum. The Russian delegation was represented by eight speakers, whose opinions were enhanced with the presentation of 13 reports from eight different countries: the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, Slovakia, Belgium and Spain. In conclusion, the partici-



Above:
*Preparatory meeting for participants of the Forum
(June 23, Brussels)*

pants expressed their confidence that the Yaroslavl Forum will become an important platform for the further exchange of opinions and that its discussions will contribute to the formation of crucial recommendations for the leaders of states for which inter-ethnic relations has become a pressing problem. ■