

FORUM NEEDS A MORE INTERACTIVE FORMAT



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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

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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. ■