

## DEBATE — INSTEAD OF PRE-PREPARED PAPERS



PETER SCHULZE

is a Professor in the Political Science Department of the Georg-August University in Goettingen (Germany). He is focused on international and East-West relations, the Russian Federation, and Russian-European relations. Participant in the Global Policy Forum in Yaroslavl.

Exclusively for the Yaroslavl Forum

At the previous Yaroslavl Forum, the content of the sessions is adequate according to their title. However, **the session on global and regional security should not be primarily focused on NATO.** The concept of enhanced security or soft security, which is much more important in Europe and has been enacted by the European Union, was completely underdeveloped in this session. The reason for this was that the chairperson - Robertson of NATO - and Jurgens only addressed the issue concerning Russia and NATO. This issue is relevant but not essential. Much more importance needs to be awarded to EU-Russia relations in

terms of security matters.

Most of the sessions were fully dominated by pre-ordered papers. Such an approach is a discussion killer. It would be much better if only two controversial papers were to be read, each of which would be approx. 20 minutes and they should follow an open discussion. By open discussion I mean, **a genuinely open debate without pre-prepared papers, which are then merely read aloud.** The technical, practical elements of the Yaroslavl Forum are very good and do not need to be changed or altered.

I have a few words about the session on modernisation: I totally missed the debate on the technologi-

cal-innovative reconstruction of East Germany. This model tells Russia more than approaches that are based on US experiences. By the way, most industrial member states of the EU have more to share about innovation, technology and industrial policies than is the case for other countries. Those countries have been in a race to stay competitive in a global economy for 30 years.

I very much liked the idea that this Forum brings together splendid international experts and by doing so, aims to improve Russia's image, which unfortunately is often negatively depicted in Western print media. **The Forum is a showcase for developing a societal and serious debate on Russia's future.**

It contributes in a very effective way to the internationalisation of the Russian expert community and demonstrates the awareness that present and future challenges can only be universally met in an open dialogue. ■

**Preparatory meeting for participants in the section  
'DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETIES' OF THE GLOBAL POLICY FORUM  
(May 17, 2011 in Beijing)**

The preparatory meeting for participants in the section 'Democratic institutions in multi-ethnic societies' of the upcoming Global Policy Forum took place in Beijing on May 17, 2011.

The Executive Directorate of the Global Policy Forum, on the part of Russia, and the Central Compilation and Translation Bureau operating under the CPC Central Committee, on the part of China, were the organisers of the preparatory meeting for the Forum section 'Democratic institutions in multi-ethnic societies'.

The participants discussed such issues as states' experience in the field of building of democratic systems, and the efficiency of democratic institutions and government in the face of such problems as illegal migration, ethnic apartness, separatism and fundamentalism. Well-known experts, researchers, political scientists and journalists from Russia and China took part in the discussion.

Gleb Pavlovsky, the President of the Russian Institute, Editor-in-chief of the 'Europa' Publishing House, and member of Public Chamber of the Russian Federation's Committee on Civil Society Development, who is the moderator of the section 'Democratic institutions in multi-ethnic societies', noted that Russia is currently in an early stage of discussion when it comes to democracy building. Today, Russia still has not made a choice between two different ways of development: the multinational consensus model or the supranational



model of national-democratic consensus. This is why studying the Chinese experience in terms of building a 'vertical democracy' might be exceptionally useful for review by the Russian experts.

Separate attention was dedicated to the Chinese experience in relation to building a multi-ethnic state. Russian experts admitted the fact that the Chinese experience will be useful for review for Russia, which is facing a new wave of migration and is necessitated to move to a new level of inter-ethnic relations.