

IMPROVE THE TERMS OF DEBATES



MARTIN BRUSIS

is the Managing Director of the project network 'Institutions and Institutional Change in Post-socialism' at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Munich (Germany). Participant in the Global Policy Forum in Yaroslavl.

Exclusively for the Yaroslavl Forum

In general, I enjoyed the Forum and I was satisfied with the overall organisation and the opportunities to meet people and learn about current political debates in Russia. I do have a number of specific comments and proposals:

The special train transfer to and from Yaroslavl, as well as the opportunity to join the anniversary celebrations of this city gave the Forum a very nice distinctive flavour of Russian life and culture, in addition to authentic local hospitality. Such things are important in shaping the spirit of Yaroslavl, but things should not

become too folkloristic, that is, unauthentic.

I did not have the opportunity to contribute to the debate since my section on 'democratic standards...' was largely filled by a predetermined list of speakers, leaving extremely little time for discussion in the plenary (there was only time for four statements from the audience, according to my notes). **I would have welcomed a more open debate and shorter statements.** Perhaps another possible solution might be to have smaller sections, enabling more participants to share their views. The list of participants was miss-

ing, but it would be highly desirable to disseminate it;

It will be great to see more subjects at the Forum, particularly economic topics relevant to the international business community would be desirable and could also strengthen the 'Global' character of the Global Policy Forum. For example, this includes the economic integration of Russia and Central Asia, Russian-Chinese relations, Russia-Turkey-Iran relations, the Arab world, and Russian assistance to developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Inviting Berlusconi to a Forum designed to reinforce Russia's identity as a democracy was elusive, given the doubts about democratic standards in Italy that the Berlusconi government has raised. In view of Berlusconi's bad image, this guest was certainly not the right choice to dispel suspicions about the quality of democracy in Russia. ■

Preparatory meeting for the section 'THE RICH AND THE POOR: WHERE IS JUSTICE?' OF THE GLOBAL POLICY FORUM (June 9, 2011 in Madrid)

A presentation of the section 'The rich and the poor: where is justice?' of the upcoming Global Policy Forum took place on June 9 in Madrid.

The preparatory meeting was organised by the Executive Directorate of the Global Policy Forum (on the part of Russia) and the Madrid-based IE Business School (on the part of Spain).

Experts from Russia, Spain and the United States expressed their opinion on issues of social inequality within states and at the global scale and presented reports on strategies of economic development, conflict and crisis management, the modernisation of the approach to public and professional education, the stimulation of business activity and the formation of a new, stable and just social order.

According to the section moderator, Valery Fadeev, who is the Director of the Institute for Public Planning and a member of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation's Council on Economic Development and Support for Entrepreneurship, some of the ideas for the development of social systems, which were shaped in the middle of the 20th century, are now outdated and require reconsideration and modernisation.

The Dean of the IE Business School in Santiago, Icíquez de Ozoco, thinks that it is possible to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor through education. However, the Head of the Executive Directorate of the Forum, Vladislav Inozemtsev,



doubted the fact that education could be a real factor in bringing about world change since receiving a good education is still primarily a privilege exclusive to wealthy citizens.

Manuel Montes, Chief of Policy Analysis Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, noted that achieving social stability in terms of the structural reform of a governmental system and the rethinking of state-business relations are both needed.