

*The EU-Russia Industrialists Round Table (IRT)
Seventh General Meeting, London 3 October 2005*

JOINT CONCLUSIONS

Introduction and summary

The Seventh General meeting of the EU-Russia Industrialists' Round Table was held in London on 3 October 2005, under the joint chairmanship of **Anatoly Chubais**, Chief Executive Officer of RAO "United Energy Systems of Russia", and **Jukka Härmälä**, Chief Executive Officer of Stora Enso Oyj.

The meeting was attended by more than 600 participants, representing a broad cross-section of different business sectors and official bodies of the EU and Russia. This represents a substantial increase in participation relative to recent years and reflects the growing interest and significance attached to the IRT by respective business communities. A number of high-level European and Russian officials took part in the Forums activities and events, including **Günter Verheugen**, Vice-President of the European Commission, **Victor Khristenko**, Minister for Energy and Industry of the Russian Federation, **Andris Piebalgs**, European Commissioner for Energy, **Peter Mandelson**, European Commissioner for Trade, the Right Honourable **Alan Johnson**, MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, U.K., and **Jean Lemierre**, President, EBRD.

The representatives of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP), the Union of Industrial Confederations of Europe (UNICE) and the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) played an active role in the forum's deliberations.

The main theme for discussion was the role that business can play in helping to create the proposed **Common Economic Space** between Russia and the EU. The Round Table has strongly supported the concept of a Common Economic Space since its inception, and at its present meeting called on all interested parties to move towards concrete and more detailed implementation plans. The forum's participants welcomed the signing of Joint Statement and the **Memorandum of Understanding** between the UNICE and the Steering Committee of Entrepreneurs Unions of Russia directed, inter alia, at the development of business dialogue on the Common Economic Space and the support of the IRT activities in this and other areas. The IRT also noted the official opening of the Russian Business Mission to the EU in Brussels and called on the EU authorities and business organizations to support its activities as an liaison point.