

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY BALAKIN,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1105th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 June 2016

**In connection with the holding of the  
20th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform our colleagues of the opening today of the 20th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) entitled “Capitalizing on the new global economic reality”.

The participants have a full agenda covering a wide range of current issues facing the world business and expert community. Discussion focuses on five fundamental thematic blocks:

- Sustaining economic expansion;
- Realizing the economic potential of Russia;
- New geo-economic dynamics;
- Navigating revolutions in technology;
- The human dimension.

The event in St. Petersburg also includes the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Business Forum, the Business 20 Forum, the Energy Club Summit, and the Global Energy Prize award ceremony.

The first Conference on the Economic Development of the Arctic is also being held on the margins of this year’s SPIEF.

In the past the annual event has been attended by over 10,000 participants including Heads of State or Government, political leaders, heads of major companies and leading experts from the international community.

The SPIEF offers a unique platform for dialogue between developing countries and States with developed economies, authorities, business and the public. It is open to everyone interested in constructive discussion, willing to appreciate a multifaceted spectrum of opinions and disposed to seek consensus solutions.

Thank you for your attention.