



**EU Civil Society Dialogue Conference
19-20 October 2006**

**Business Opportunities in Russia:
Post WTO Accession**

Timetable of Russian WTO Accession

- **EU-Russia Bilateral Ag: May 2004**
- **US-Russia Bilateral Ag: Jan 2007???**
- **Multilateral Working Party: 1st Sem. 2007???**
- **Douma Ratification: Summer 2007???**
- **Likely date of accession: mid to late 2007**

Challenges for RU WTO Accession for EU

- **Dual pricing of energy/feedstock**
- **Export taxes/restrictions**
- **Dual pricing of railway tariffs**
- **Siberian overflight charges**
- **Technical regulations: ICT/SPS**
- **Licensing of alcoholic beverages**
- **Customs fees increasing**
- **Codification of IPR legislation**

Russia: Better in or out?

Positive:

- Only major economy outside WTO
- Need Russia in international economic system

Negative:

- Need implementation of WTO rules
- New regulations must be WTO compatible

OVERALL BALANCE: POSITIVE

UNICE Position on Russian Accession

- 1. RESOLVE FINAL ECONOMIC ISSUES**
- 2. RAPIDLY CONCLUDE ACCESSION**
- 3. ENCOURAGE RUSSIA: IMPLEMENT WTO RULES**

Benefits for EU-Russia Economies

- **LOWER TARIFFS**
- **FEWER TRADE RESTRICTIONS (QUOTAS)**
- **IMPROVED CUSTOMS RULES**
- **MARKET OPENING FOR SERVICES**
- **BIGGER INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
- **BETTER IPR PROTECTION**

EU-RUSSIA: New Strategic Partnership

- 1. WTO ACCESSION**
- 2. START POST-PCA NEGOTIATIONS**
- 3. STRATEGIC COOPERATION TREATY**
- 4. EU-RUSSIA COMMON ECONOMIC AREA**



Future of EU-Russia economic relations

- **Options for post-2007/PCA era**
- **Many problem areas: cross-border investment, energy, tariffs, NTBs, export restrictions**
- **How to solve them?**
- **WTO Accession/Common economic area**

**NEED A BALANCE BETWEEN EU & RUSSIAN
ECONOMIC INTERESTS**

UNICE Russia activities

- **Statements/positions on EU-Russia relations**
- **Missions to Moscow: Govt and Business**
- **Joint declarations/activities with Russian business (RSPP/IRT)**
- **Active participation in EU-Russia Business Summits (IRT/BCC)**

UNICE Cooperation with Russian Business

Partnership with RSPP

- **Main business organisation in Russia**
- **Joint work on future trade & inv. ag.**
- **Support for EU-Russia IRT (23 Nov. Helsinki)**
 - **position on trade & Inv. treaty**