

**FINAL DOCUMENT  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

*“EU, CIS and Asian Countries.*

*Experience and Perspectives of Economic Cooperation in the Context of the Global Financial  
and Economic Crisis. Interests of Business”*

The International Conference «EU, CIS and Asian Countries. Experience and Perspectives of Economic Cooperation in the Context of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis. Interests of Business», organized by the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs jointly with the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists with the participation of BUSINESSEUROPE, took place on October 6, 2009 in Vilnius (Republic of Lithuania).

Over 200 participants from 28 European and Asian countries took part in the Conference, among them government authorities of the Republic of Lithuania, representatives from intergovernmental and interstate EU and CIS structures, heads of leading national unions of industrialists and entrepreneurs from EU, CIS and Asian countries, businessmen and economists from these states, as well as representatives of international organizations and financial institutes.

In the course of discussions Conference participants evaluated the global financial and economic situation in the context of the crisis, determined ways of trade, economic, scientific and industrial interaction taking into account the new conditions combining overcoming the crisis, globalization and the tendencies in economic development in EU, CIS and Asian countries.

It was emphasized that the causes of the global crisis are international, for this reason it should be overcome basing on coordinated strategies and actions of all world economic players.

The Conference not only determined the willingness of industrialists and entrepreneurs from various countries to expand trade and economic cooperation, but also opened new opportunities of public international and national unions of business circles in promoting integration in the economic sphere, determining spheres for effective investment, optimal conditions for the movement of goods, capital and labor. Emphasis was given to the special role of Baltic States in bringing closer the CIS countries and the European Union.

The participants of the Conference believe that in order to overcome the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis and reach further sustained industrial development in the EU, CIS and Asia it is necessary to meet a number of **essential requirements**:

- Active participation of business in the development and implementation of measures to overcome the consequences of the world economic crisis, first of all by strengthening the international financial system and carrying out reforms basing on the recommendations of the London Declaration and the anti-crisis Pittsburgh G-20 Summit of the world's leading economies, optimizing the tax system and determining ways of post-crisis development in search of a more effective system of global economic cooperation;
- Discussions at the international level to ensure coordinated exit strategies from the current economic crisis, as well as helping to ensure clear, stable and predictable rules which avoids protectionist tendencies and increases competition;
- Formation of a more effective economic space on the basis of uniting material, intellectual and innovation potentials and investment opportunities in different countries and world financial and credit institutions;
- Restoring access to finance for companies in Europe and Asia;
- Strategic partnership for open markets for transport and energy infrastructure, investment in natural resource development, environmental protection and improvement of living standards. Companies from Europe and Asia also have to work together to foster business to business cooperation in the area of energy efficiency and clean technology;

- Implementation of economically independent infrastructure projects in the energy, transport, telecommunication and other spheres;
- Abolishment of remaining barriers for trade expansion and ambitious trade agreements;
- Compliance with generally recognized norms and principles of international law, coordination of macroeconomic policy and simultaneous concrete improvement of business and investment climate with the aim of strengthening the competitiveness of the EU, CIS and Asia on the world market;
- Advancing negotiations in Geneva on the Doha round and the WTO accessions through mutual understanding;
- Creation of equal opportunities for the development of international entrepreneurial activity;
- Active support of small and medium business due to the simplification of custom procedures, in particular in application of a single administrative window;
- Legislative harmonization and unification of law enforcement practice, including for intellectual property, principles of development and implementation of technical regulations and standards, sanitary and phytosanitary norms;
- Formation of common principles for regulating activities of natural monopolies (in the railway, telecommunication, energy supply, oil, gas and other spheres) based on competition policy;
- Development of new effective schemes of financial support for international regional and interregional projects;
- Strengthening of bilateral cooperation, elimination of barriers for economic development between neighbor countries;
- Development of interregional and cross-border cooperation in the EU, CIS and Asia.

Conference participants note that interaction of business associations that convey and express real interests of direct participants of economic relations, is the most important component of economic integration and cooperation and in order to create the above mentioned conditions for overcoming the crisis and ensuring further economic development they recommend **the following directions:**

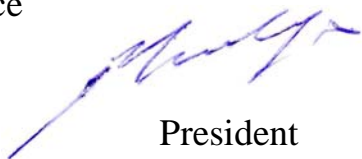
- Monitoring of development tendencies of the world financial system, the state of the monetary system, development of recommendations for reform of the system of a global economic cooperation;
- International infrastructure projects, mainly in the field of transport and innovation technologies;
- Interaction with organizations from the UN system and other international and regional government, industrial and financial organizations in realizing large-scale projects and international program;
- Strengthening contacts between entrepreneurs' associations basing on specialization, first of all, in the certification, insurance, banking, investment and financial sectors, with international branch associations;
- Promoting exchange of information for external economic cooperation;
- Research and dissemination of advanced experience in international agreement relations and enforcement practice;
- Promoting better social and educational opportunities in different countries;
- Raising the level of trust between economic players;
- Improving business to business cooperation in the field of high technology;
- Increasing the role of business associations in the creation of an open and free market;
- Developing ways for the Baltic region to act as an intermediary zone between the EU and CIS;
- Foster new business cooperation models between the EU, CIS and Asia at the state, as well as the regional and local levels;
- Encouraging discussions online on issues concerning business society activities in crisis conditions and working out measures for overcoming its consequences and forming a more effective economy of the post-crisis period;
- Collection, analysis and generalization of opinions, proposals, recommendations, examples of successful crisis problem solving expressed during the discussions and publishing of these materials on the website of ICIE, as well as directing them to corresponding state authorities, international and other interested structures.

The participants of the Conference recommend the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs to put the practice of organizing conferences on current international economic issues on a regular basis.

The Conference participants express their gratitude to the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists for the high level of organizing the event.

On a commission from the participants of the Conference

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*Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania, October 6, 2009*