

Memorandum of Understanding

On establishing a world-class three-way Track II dialogue in Latvia

We believe that at this critical time for both US-Russian and European-Russian relations, there is a pressing need to create a unique, three way Track II dialogue that could open an important avenue to enhance mutual understanding, build trust, strengthen security and stability, consider common economic interests, and map a way forward in the West's relations with Moscow, and vice versa.

Latvia offers an ideal venue for this dialogue, as a state with a long track record of bringing together diverse communities, in particular Russians with their Western counterparts.

The centerpiece would be an annual convening of the dialogue members in an off-the-record setting in Latvia. In addition to the annual flagship gathering in Latvia, members of the dialogue could convene for smaller core group meetings, and also draw on its members to publish occasional pieces related to the agenda of the annual gathering. Major themes for discussion include, but are not limited to: promoting global economic growth, including the Baltic Sea region, nuclear arms reduction, cooperation in Syria and relations in north-east Asia, including North and South Korea, Japan and China.

After a period of intensive consultations between the Atlantic Council, the Institute of Contemporary Development, the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations, the Russian Council on International Relations, *Certus* think tank, the Latvian Institute of International Affairs and the Baltic Forum, we, the undersigned, are ready to form a consortium of think tanks from the United States, Russian Federation, and Latvia to institutionalize this regular dialogue, with Latvia as the primary venue. We shall form a convening board to undertake the next steps in forming the consortium and consider new members on consensual basis. This convening board shall have three leads responsible for the main nodes in the United States, Russian Federation, and Latvia:

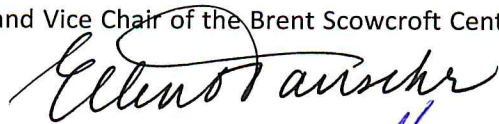
- Ambassador Alexander Vershbow shall be the lead for the United States
- Igor Yurgens shall be the lead for the Russian Federation
- Vjačeslavs Dombrovskis shall be the lead for Latvia

We envisage the following division of responsibilities. The Latvian lead shall be responsible for setting up the mechanism locally to provide assistance, as well as contributing to setting the agenda. The U.S. and Russian leads shall be jointly responsible for shaping the agenda for the meetings.

Damon Wilson, Executive Vice-President of the Atlantic Council:



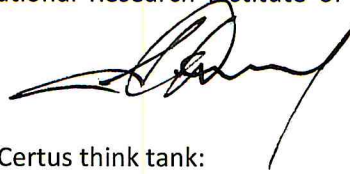
Ellen Tauscher, Executive Committee Board Director and Vice Chair of the Brent Scowcroft Center at the Atlantic Council:



Igor Yurgens, Chairman of the Board, Institute of Contemporary Development:

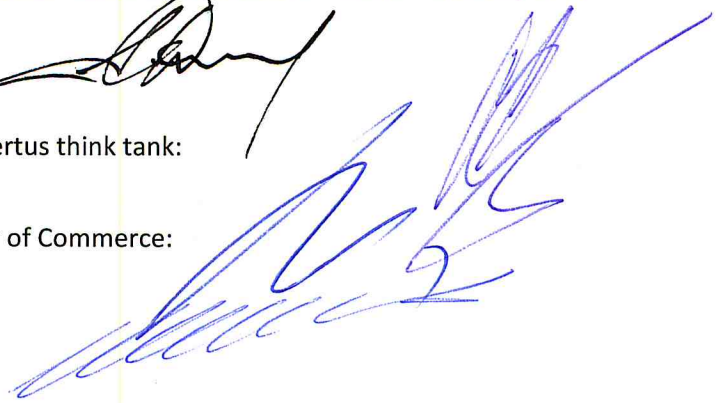


Alexander Dynkin, President of the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and
International Relations:



Vjačeslavs Dombrovskis, Founder and Director of Certus think tank:

Aigars Rostovskis, President of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce:



Jānis Urbanovičs, President of the Baltic Forum:

Riga, May 27, 2017

Addendum (2 items):

1. Letter of Intent as of 12.05.2017 (1 page)
2. "US-Russian-European Strategic Dialogue", Concept Note of the Atlantic Council, 19.05.2017 (3 pages)