

## Uncertainty of Russian Markets – How to continue business

**Time:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 12pm - 6pm

**Place:** Scandic Park Hotel, Mannerheimintie 46, Helsinki

### Programme

*Chairman: Marc Palahí, Director, European Forest Institute*

12:00 **Registration, coffee**

12:30 **Opening**, Marc Palahí

12:40 **Russian economic development and business outlook**

*Tamara Lipkind, Deputy Head of the Centre for Business Tendency Studies, Moscow*

*Comment: Laura Solanko, Senior Advisor, Bank of Finland*

13:20 **Current Russian business environment – a Finnish perspective**

*Raimo Valo, CEO, East Office of Finnish Industries*

Comment from a Finnish company operating in Russia:

*Juha Kirvesniemi, Area Sales Manager-Russia, Logset Oy*

Discussion

14:15 **Coffee**

14:45 **Investments in the forest sector in Russia**

*Alexander Rudik, President, Nova Capital, Moscow*

Comments:

- *Alexander Voropaev, WWF Russia*
- *Finnish company operating in Russia: Jukka Norppa, Sawmill Director, Pin-Arctic Oy*
- *Eugene Lopatin, Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resources Institute Finland*

Discussion

16:10 **Closing remarks**, Marc Palahí

16:15 **Buffet and networking**

18.00 **The seminar closes**

**WELCOME!**

## SPEAKERS



**Alexander Rudik**

A member of the Board of JSK Poliplast and a member of the general council of the all-Russian public organisation Business Russia.

Alexander Rudik started his banking career in 1994 and is the founder and president of Nova Capital LLC. Before founding Nova Capital in 2011, he established the Region Group of Companies, a leading Russian investment group, in 1995, and remained its principal shareholder and president until 2011.

Mr. Rudik has served as Vice Governor of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation and on the board of directors of LLC Timber Group. He also chaired the Subcommittee on the Wood Processing Industry and Housing Construction of the Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce's Committee on the Development of the Timber Industry and Forestry and is a former member of the Forestry Board of the Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources.



**Tamara Lipkind**

Deputy Head of the Centre for Business Tendency Studies, Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge, Higher School of Economics (HSE), Moscow, Russian Federation.

Before joining HSE, she has worked in the Centre for Economic Analyses at the Government of the Russian Federation and earlier at the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Department of international comparison. She is involved in projects related to the business climate monitoring in the real and services sectors in the framework of the HSE Program of Fundamental Studies. In particular, "Business tendency monitoring in the real economy and services, pilot surveys of small enterprises in Industry, Construction, Retail, Wholesale Trade, and IT, 2014", "Barometer of Business Russia" jointly with "Delovaya Rossiya (Business Russia)", and some others.



**Raimo Valo, LL.M., B.A. (Econ.)**

CEO, East Office of Finnish Industries Ltd

Mr. Valo was appointed CEO of East Office of Finnish Industries in November 2013. Mr. Valo has a wide experience from several emerging banking markets, such as South-East Asia, Poland and most recently Russia, Moscow, in 2005 – 2010. Prior to joining East Office Mr. Valo worked as a Partner at Septem Partners, an investment bank focused on cross-border M&A transactions, target & partner search and fundraising. He also serves as a board member for several corporations.

East Office of Finnish Industries is founded by the leading Finnish corporations to enhance business opportunities in Russia. East Office gathers and analyses relevant information concerning Russia and especially its economic and political development.



**Laura Solanko, Senior Advisor, Bank of Finland**

PhD. Solanko has been a senior advisor at the Bank of Finland Institute for Economies in Transition (BOFIT) since 1999, specializing in Russian economic developments. Solanko received her doctoral degree from the University of Helsinki in 2007, majoring in economics. Her PhD Thesis "Essays on Russia's Economic Transition" covered topics on fiscal federalism and regional economic development in Russia. Her current research interests include the Russian energy sector, Russia-EU energy relations, and Russia's financial markets.

## LOGSET Juha Kirvesniemi, Area Sales Manager – Russia, Logset Oy

Mr. Kirvesniemi is responsible for sales in the Russian market in Logset Oy. He has extensive work experience of the Russian markets. Logset Oy is a Finnish machine manufacturer producing forwarders, harvesters and harvester heads. Logset's distribution network covers 20 countries, and Logset machines are working in more than 25 countries.



**Alexander Voropaev**, WWF Russia

Mr. Voropaev is a Coordinator of Global Forest and Trade Network in Russia (GFTN-Russia) and was involved into its work from the very beginning. GFTN-Russia was founded in 1999 under aegis of WWF-Russia in order to ensure the environmental responsibility of businesses and to promote certified forest products on the world timber market. There are a wide range of companies in the GFTN-Russia from small sawmills supplying local markets to large, fully integrated and capital-intensive multinational companies. Although these companies have different needs, all of them seek sustainable long-term business.



**Jukka Norppa**, Sawmill Director, Pin-Arctic Oy

Mr. Norppa was appointed Director of the Kostamus Sawmill in the beginning of 2015. Mr. Norppa has over 20 years of experience from Russia in forest industry production, as well as business management and development, in among others the IKEA Group.

Pin-Arctic Oy is a Finnish trading company specialising in the import of forest products from Russia. The company recently acquired sawmilling capacity (100 000 m<sup>3</sup>/a sawnwood) in Russian Karelia.



**Eugene Lopatin**, Dr. (For.)  
Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resources Institute Finland

Mr. Lopatin is the Senior Research Scientist on international bioeconomy in the Natural Resources Institute Finland. His work relates to forestry in Russia and the Eastern European countries with economies in transition. He has been involved in various development projects related to the business environment in forestry and forestry industry in Russia. He also has forestry project experience in Ukraine, Belarus, Czech Republic and Vietnam.

Natural Resources Institute Finland is a research and expert organisation. The institute promotes bioeconomy and sustainable use of natural resources.