

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

To the organisers and participants of 10th European Russian Forum

I would like to offer my heartfelt greetings to the organisers and participants of the 10th jubilee European Russian Forum.

Your traditional meetings on the premises of the European Parliament demonstrate the intention of the wider public in Russia and European Union member states to continue developing mutually respectful dialogue in the interest of maintaining trust and mutual understanding across our shared continent. In the time of decline in Russia-EU interaction such activities of public diplomacy deserve particular respect and support.

Today Europe and the whole world are facing multiple challenges and threats. The internal political crisis in Ukraine remains unresolved. Middle East and North Africa are still turbulent. Unprecedented surge in terrorism and extremism is posing a special threat for all of us. These are common problems and it is through joint efforts that we need to address them.

We are convinced that in order to ensure lasting stability on the vast Eurasian continent rapid actions are needed to start building a common economic and humanitarian space from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Implementation of this large-scale strategic project should contribute to dynamic development of all states, both members of various integration structures and not.

I hope that outcomes of your meeting as well as proposals and recommendations resulting from your debates will provide a positive contribution to building a «common European home».

I wish you fruitful discussions and all the best.

(signed)

Sergey Lavrov

Moscow, 5 December 2016