



European Meridian, XXI - 2021

THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CORONA CRISIS - POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

European and Russian experiences

26 MAY 2021 (Wednesday)

14:00 - 18:00

Online platform Russian House Brussels-Europe

On 26 May, the Russian House in Brussels, together with the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the journal "Russia in Global Affairs", and the Russian International Affairs Council, will hold the third International Expert Forum "**European Meridian, XXI**". In the 21st year of 21st century, we will talk about the social and political implications of the new human challenge of the corona crisis.

The topic of the Forum is "**The global economic corona crisis - political and social consequences**". International discussion platform aims at exchange of views and developing contacts between experts from European countries and Russia, supporting the geopolitical research and the cooperation in the fields of science, history, education. Speakers will include representatives of leading European and Russian think tanks, analytical centres, universities and key research institutions.

The Forum is planned to be held with two panel sessions:

- "**Post-pandemic. The digitalisation of social relations and international social initiatives**"

The pandemic has also made great strides in the digitalisation of social and political life. On the eve of and especially at the height of the sanitary crisis, communication has become a powerful socio-political factor, and those who control it and have the ability to gather information have gained enormous power. The technological giants are the

operators of this space. Information space keeps humanity in a common communication field and ensures the global interconnection of the world.
What line will the EU and Russia seek to take in the face of global communication challenges?

- **“Exiting the pandemic: further scenarios for the development of relations between Russia and the European Union”**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has called the global pandemic crisis the worst in a century. According to the UN, the global economy shrunk by 4.3% in 2020¹. The pandemic has hit developed countries hardest, exacerbating political and economic divisions. Globalisation processes have slowed down, while the role of nation states has returned to the fore.

How will Russia and Europe cope with the new challenges and overcome the global economic crisis? What will be offered as solutions, what is in store for the relations between Russia and the EU? How will the pandemic affect them, what alternative scenarios exist?

PROGRAMME

14:00	WELCOME SPEECHES PLENARY SESSION
	<p>H.E. Alexander TOKOVININ, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Belgium</p> <p>Dmitry POLIKANOV, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency "Rossotrudnichestvo" (Russian House)</p> <p>Alexey GROMYKO, Director of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences</p> <p>Clare DALY, Member of the European Parliament, European United Left (GUE/NGL)</p> <p>Moderator: Vera BUNINA, Director of the Russian House in Brussels</p>
14:30	"Post-pandemic. The digitalisation of social relations and international social initiatives"
	<p>Moderator: Fyodor LUKYANOV, Editor-in-Chief of Russia in Global Affairs journal, and host of the global political and economic TV programme "International Review" on Russia24 channel, Russia</p> <p>Experts: Gianluca SGUEO, research associate at the Brussels School of Governance, Belgium</p>

¹ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2021/>

	<p>Marc FRANCO, Senior Associate Fellow of Royal Institute for International Relations – EGMONT, Belgium</p> <p>Maxim SUCHKOV, Director of the Center for Advanced American Studies and Associate Professor at the Department of Applied International Analysis at MGIMO-University, Russia</p> <p>Thierry MONFORTI, Director of Academic Service and Admissions at the College of Europe, Belgium</p> <p>Stanislav TKACHENKO, Professor at the Department of European Studies, Head of the Diplomacy of the Russian Federation and Foreign Countries Programme at the Faculty of International Relations St. Petersburg University, Russia</p>
16:00	<p>"Exiting the pandemic: further scenarios for the development of relations between Russia and Europe"</p>
	<p>Moderator: Steven BLOCKMANS, Director of Research at CEPS, editor-in-chief of the European Foreign Affairs Review</p> <p>Experts:</p> <p>Ivan TIMOFEEV, Director of Programs at the Russian International Affairs Council, Russia</p> <p>Sabine FISCHER, Head of Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Science and Policy Foundation - SWP, Germany</p> <p>Olga POTEKINA, Head of the European Integration Department, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences</p> <p>Alexei MUKHIN, Director General of the Centre for Political Information</p> <p>Kirill LOGVINOV, Deputy Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Russia to the EU</p> <p>presentation of the EU-Russia Expert Network (EUREN) joint report "Alternative futures of EU-Russia relations in 2030"</p>
	<p>Evaluation of the Forum</p>

WORKING LANGUAGE: English

ABOUT FORUM

The International Forum "**European Meridian, XXI**" is a dialogue platform for exchanges between Russian and European experts in different fields from political science and economics to history and culture, civil society, think tanks and universities.

Created in 2019 by the Russian House in Brussels, "European Meridian, XXI" takes place annually online or offline in the Belgian capital, attracting hundreds of professionals and participants.

In 2019 the forum was held in Brussels in partnership with the Royal Institute of International Relations (Egmont Institute) and the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, with the participation of many renowned experts.

In 2020 the event was held in an online format, co-organized by Rossotrudnichestvo, the Russia in Global Affairs journal, the Institute of Europe and the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In 2021, the Forum will take place for the third time in Brussels - the online format will discuss new perspectives on European-Russian relations as well as the challenges of social relations arising from the pandemic crisis.

The forum continued with the creation of the discussion club "Connecting Point", a monthly dialogue platform that discusses a wide range of issues on the contemporary agenda, from preserving historical memory to the development of new technologies and innovations.

The online Forum is available to participants from all over the world by registration and is broadcast live. Working languages: English, Russian (simultaneous translation). A summary of the speeches will be published at the end of the Forum.