

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

Issue 16, 2004, week 37

## Cooperation between Stockholm-Mälars region and the City of St. Petersburg



Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

The meeting between Tommy Karlsson, Stockholm County Council, Lada Illarionova, Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, and Georgy Psarev, Committee on External Affairs of the City of St. Petersburg, took place at Smolny on 7 September. The prospects and key fields of cooperation between Stockholm-Mälars region and the City of St. Petersburg were discussed.

The Agreement on cooperation is planned to be signed in the beginning of 2005.

Source: Stockholm Region Office,  
[stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)

## Cooperation between Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg and St. Petersburg Rector Council

On 6 September Lada Illarionova, Head of the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, met Viktor Romanov, Chairman of the St. Petersburg Rector Council and Rector of the St. Petersburg State University of Technology and Design. During the meeting the possibilities for further cooperation were discussed. In particular, the Stockholm Region Office and the Rector Council are planning to arrange Nobel Day activities in St. Petersburg that would attract closer attention to the Nobel family and innovative processes in the Northwest Russia.



Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

A protocol on information cooperation between the Rector Council and the Stockholm Region Office was signed. Lada Illarionova also took advantage of the meeting and congratulated Viktor Romanov on his 10th Anniversary as Chairman of the St. Petersburg Rector Council.

Source: Stockholm Region Office,  
[stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru](mailto:stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru)

## The LLC Scania-Peter Produced the 200th Omni Link City Bus



Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

On 16 August Scania Omni Link bus was transferred to the state company Passazhiravtotrans. The official ceremony took place on the territory of the factory.

The LLC Scania-Peter has been operating in St. Petersburg since 2002. This year it has been awarded with *Made in St. Petersburg* quality mark at the correspondent services and goods competition.

75 Scania Omni Link city buses have been produced in 2004. Because of the Scania Omni Link buses deficit Scania-Peter took a decision to increase the production up to 250 buses per year. A new modification of Scania Omni Line long-distance (inter-city) bus will be put into operation this year.

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## City in Your Hands

Newspaper *Metro* together with the City of St. Petersburg is carrying out competition *City in your hands* to support initiative of the citizens who enthusiastically grow flowers in the yards, repair and design their entrances and adjoining areas, create playgrounds and football-pitches. The project is implemented by the St. Petersburg Committee on Press and Public Relations.



The winners of the competition will be awarded with prize money, provided by *Metro* newspaper and the City of St. Petersburg.

*Metro* newspaper is going to write

Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

about all people who are concerned about the city's condition.

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## Enthusiasts are Taking Care of the City



One of the enthusiasts who sent an application for the project *City in Your Hands* is Margarita Ostashevskaya. In June 2000 she started the ecological experiment *Flower-beds on the garbage* that participated in the *TACIS* programme

*Eco-effectiveness* in 2002-2003. The results of her activities were highlighted in six TV programmes and five articles in newspapers.

In the interview to *Radio Russia* in the beginning of September 2004 Margarita Ostashevskaya expressed the idea of creating a social garden as an alternative to environmental pollution and joining energies in arranging so called "garden ring" close to the ring road.



Source: Margarita Ostashevskaya, e-mail: [anna@bu.3979.spb.edu](mailto:anna@bu.3979.spb.edu)

## EU Grant to the Leningrad Region's Environmental Programme

The Leningrad Region has been granted 480 thousand Euro within the frames of the European Union programme *EU Life – Third Countries*. The objective of *LIFE-Third countries* is to contribute to the establishment of capacities and administrative structures needed in the environmental sector and in the development of environmental policy and action programmes. The grant constitutes 70% of the regional programme aiming at the development of nature preserves. The resting 30% will come from the Leningrad Region government.

The implementation of the programme is planned for the years 2005-2007. It will include education seminars for the entrepreneurs on how to work in the nature reserves conditions; how to take advantage of resort opportunities; how to attract investors and develop crediting system for small enterprises.

One of the objectives of this regional programme is to develop ecotourism in the nature preserves, taking into account that there are certain limits on their use. The Leningrad Region is now searching investors that would be interested in building of parking places and rest homes.



Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

According to branch specialists, ecotourism in the Leningrad Region is now on grass root level, but has all the development perspectives.

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, 27 July 2004

## 8th International Industry Forum *Russian Industrialist*



On 27-30 September the 8th International Industry Forum *Russian Industrialist* will take place in St. Petersburg. It is an economical event of the federal meaning that combines a number of specialized expositions, conferences and seminars. The exhibition is arranged by the City of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region, exhibition centers *Lenexpo*, *Restec*, *Promexpo* with the support of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of St. Petersburg. The main objectives of the Forum are support of Russian producers, development of cooperation and investment and innovative activities, promotion of science achievements, products and services to the international market.

About 350 companies from 10 countries of the world and 30 regions of the Russian Federation were presented at the Russian Industrialist in 2003. Last year's Forum attracted over 12 000 visitors.

This year the Forum will include such sectors as machine building, metal working, instruments and equipment.

For the second time the stand of Stockholm International Fairs will be presented at the Forum. Last year it was visited by the representatives of 200 various companies.



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## Presentation of *PM LUFT AB* in St. Petersburg Construction Center

The presentation of the Swedish company *PM LUFT AB* was held by its partner in St. Petersburg - *PM Vent* company at the premises of the St. Petersburg Construction Center (PCC) in August 2004. *PM LUFT AB* is one of the leading manufacturers of climate control equipment in Europe.

It is the 12th presentation held at the PCC within the frames of its cooperation with *PM Vent*. Both parties appreciate the results of the cooperation. According to Stanislav Studzinsky, Deputy Director of *PM Vent*, such joint projects attract new business partners. PCC considers it to be a good tool in business development.

PCC functions as an information and competence center for the building branch of the Northwest Russia. Since 2000 it has regularly organized the visits of Russian professional groups to the Nordbygg construction fair arranged by Stockholm International Fairs (see *Delegation of St. Petersburg Construction Center at Nordbygg 2004*, issue 7, week 17)

Contact person: Oxana Sokovnina, PR-manager, St. Petersburg Construction Center, e-mail: [infstroy@list.ru](mailto:infstroy@list.ru)

## VAT Decreased

By the year 2006 the government of the Russian Federation plans to decrease VAT from 18% to 16% as well as to abolish 10% reduced rate.

Delovoy Peterburg, 9 July 2004

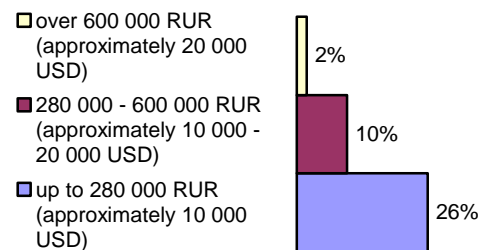
## Changes in the Tax Code

The Russian State Duma has accepted changes in the Tax Code. The changes concern the decrease of single social tax basic rates and modification of regression scale. A new law will come into force on 1 January 2005. Maximum rate of the single social tax will be decreased from 35.6% to 26%. As a result, business will receive 280 billion RUR (approximately 9,5 billion USD).

Officials consider tax rates decrease to provide 30 billion RUR (approximately 1 billion USD) income to the budget.

Delovoy Peterburg, 24 June 2004

**Single Social Tax rates**  
suggested by the Government  
according to the annual income:



## The Day of Knowledge at St. Petersburg Scientific and Educational Center of Physics and Technologies



Celebrations dedicated to the beginning of a new academic year took place on 1 September at the scientific-educational complex St. Petersburg Scientific and Educational center of Physics and Technologies of the Russian Academy of Science, headed by Zhores Alferov, the Nobel Prize winner. The unique center unites the Physical-technical school,

Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

department of physics and technologies of the St. Petersburg State Technical University and sub-faculty of optics electrotechnology at the St. Petersburg State University of Electrotechnology. The event was attended by Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, and Ilya Klebanov, Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Northwest Russia.



Photo: [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

Source: Interpress, [www.interpress.ru](http://www.interpress.ru)

## Russia is the Most Attractive Country for Retail Investment

The 2004 Global Retail Development Index made by the consulting firm *A.T. Kearney* shows that Russia is the most attractive country for retail investment. In the annual study of retail investment attractiveness among 30 emerging countries Russia comes first before India and China. As it was marked, the risk of investing in Russia declines as the country makes progress towards stability and the population income grows.

Source: Metro, 9 August 2004

### Poll Results on Internet Access Modes Among Russian Users

Digital subscriber line – 75%  
Modem – 20%  
Mobile telephone – 2%  
Different – 3%

Source: Metro, 23 August 2004

### Facts and Figures

There are 52,5 mln mobile telephone subscribers in Russia

Source: Metro, 23 August 2004

### Largest Chains of Computer Shops in St. Petersburg

Name	Number of shops	Total area	Turnover, mln USD
Key	10	5 000 sq m	70
Komputerniy Mir (Computer world)	15	4 500 sq m	50-60
Rim (Rome)	10	2 700 sq m	18-20

Source: Delovoy Peterburg, 13 August 2004

The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/tpl/topic.asp?ID=457>

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