

# Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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## Sida and Leningrad Region Administration Signed an Agreement

Agreements on Financial Support of municipal water supply and draining system restoration in Gatchina and Tikhvin towns was signed on 28 June by Aleksandr Yakovlev, Vice Governor of the Leningrad region, and May Andersson, Consul General of Sweden in St. Petersburg, on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as well as by the Heads of the Municipalities of Gatchina and Tikhvin and the Director of local water supply companies. According to the Agreements the Swedish party will provide a grant aid to Gatchina and Tikhvin cities for water pipes reconstruction which will constitute about 18 and 16.8 mln SEK correspondingly. The grants only cover 50% of the required financing. 15% will be provided from regional and municipal budgets while the rest will be covered by loan proceeds within a long-term credit of the Northern Investment Bank.

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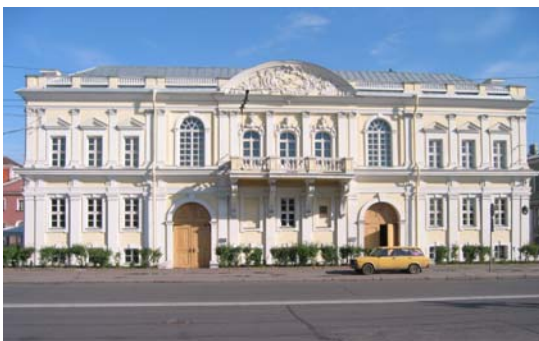
## Leningrad Region Develops Cooperation with Lombardy (Italy)

On 24 June Valery Serdukov, Governor of the Leningrad region, met the delegation of Lombardy region headed by Attilio Fontana, President of the Lombardy Regional Council. The prospects of further cooperation were discussed. In particular, the meeting was devoted to the elaboration of a new Agreement on cooperation which will develop the ongoing long-term programme of interregional cooperation in such spheres as culture, education and SME support as well housing and communal services reform. As it was emphasized by the parties, the Agreement should be targeted at economic cooperation, especially now when the first Italian investor *Merloni* company has entered the market of the Leningrad region. Leningrad region also seeks to get acquainted with the Italian experience in staff training for industrial companies in accordance with the region's needs.

In September 2005, a delegation representing business circles of the Leningrad region plans to pay a visit to the Northern Italy to meet the Italian colleagues, develop new contacts and discuss the prospects of cooperation at the Milan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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## Leningrad Region: Business and Municipalities



trust in the authorities, responsibility and sagacity in their approach to the production facilities modernisation.

In the first half year 2005 the growth of industrial production in the Leningrad region constituted 13,7% which is 2,7 times higher than the average figures in Russia.

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On 23 June the Summer Assembly of the Business Community of the Leningrad Region was arranged by the Leningrad Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The main topic of the Assembly was formulated as "Business and municipalities: mutual work for successful social-economic development in the region".

During the Assembly Valery Serdukov, Governor of the Leningrad Region, thanked businessmen in the region for their work,



## Vladimir Putin Met American Businessmen



In the end of June Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, met with a group of American businessmen at the Konstantinovsky Palace – official residence of the President of the Russian Federation and a big congress center outside St. Petersburg.

The Russian party was also represented by German Gref, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and Viktor Khristenko, Minister of Industry and Energy. Opening the meeting, Vladimir Putin spoke about investment cooperation, cooperation in the energy sector, rising world oil prices and legislative obstacles that Russia and the United States face on their way to closer economic cooperation.



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

## Finns Searching Subcontractors in St. Petersburg

Nearly 40 Finnish companies have applied to the City of St. Petersburg with a request to find local subcontractors. Orders on hands constitute 100 million euro.

According to Yuriy Rakov, Deputy Head of the Committee on Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade of St. Petersburg, total turnover of subcontracting works carried out by local companies upon requests from Russian and foreign companies constitute 10-30 million euro. Finnish companies used to order subcontracting works in the Baltic States. However as far as they entered EU inputs have increased.

Today St. Petersburg Industry Support Fund is responsible for the search of correspondent companies in St. Petersburg.

The most part of the requests is closely connected with hard ware production, metal working, construction etc.

Source: Delovoy Petersburg, June 2005



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

## Strengthening Cooperation with Israel



In the end of June 2005, Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, met Ehud Olmert, Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour of Israel. The main issue of the meeting was the discussion on how to enlarge cooperation between St. Petersburg and Israel. Valentina Matvienko said that the development of humanitarian cooperation could be now observed between Russia and Israel, while bilateral relations within economics, trade and industry could be improved. According to the Governor, St. Petersburg is interested in cooperation within

those spheres where Israel already made significant progress, i.e. high technologies, tourism, chemical industry as well as science parks.

At the meeting, the parties agreed on arranging a presentation of St. Petersburg in Israel.

Source: [www.gov.spb.ru](http://www.gov.spb.ru)



## Celebrations of the 750 Years Anniversary of Kaliningrad in the Beginning of July



Photo: Richard Hylertstedt, [r.hylertstedt@mail.ru](mailto:r.hylertstedt@mail.ru)

On the 1 July after 5 months of intensive preparations official celebrations of the 750 years anniversary of Kaliningrad began.

The most part of the city construction projects were finished the week before the anniversary. In particular, the newly erected white Cathedral of Christ the Savior faces the renovated Victory square. The old German Royal Gate, the symbol of the anniversary, was unveiled by President Putin.

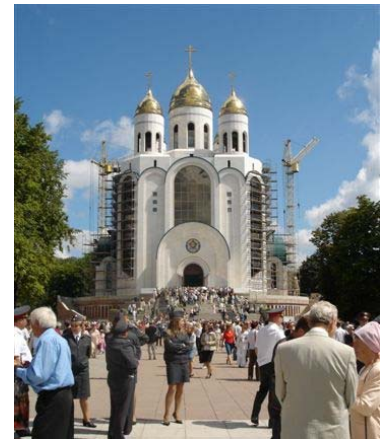


Photo: Richard Hylertstedt, [r.hylertstedt@mail.ru](mailto:r.hylertstedt@mail.ru)

A number of small parks were opened in Kaliningrad as presents from other countries and cities. Ships and boats were sailing along the seashore and real balloons were flying over the city. Music performed by Russian popular artists as well as folk groups was heard in the streets from the outdoor stages. Every celebration day was concluded with a firework show.



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## Summit in Kaliningrad

During the 750 years anniversary of Kaliningrad Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, met Gerhard Schröder, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic. The Kyoto protocol as well as the Agreement on Russian-Estonian border was among the key topics of the discussion. During the meeting with the representatives of large entrepreneurship the President of the Russian Federation promised to facilitate the growth of foreign investments in the region. Vladimir Putin also met the Governor of the city. During the visit to Kaliningrad the President said that special attention in the future should be paid to Kaliningrad's long-term gas supply and the work on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Bill.

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

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