

## **Business Hanse adopts resolution on co-operation with Russian enterprises while visiting with a trade delegation**

*Veliky Novgorod/Pskov/Herford, 3 October 2014: At the end of September, Business Hanse visited Russia with a trade delegation in order to fortify the co-operation between European Union and Russian members. "The trip was very successful", said Marion Köhn, General Manager of Business Hanse. This was illustrated by newly concluded co-operation agreements and numerous contracts. In the course of the consultations, a resolution on economic co-operation was adopted. The business association sharply condemns the violation of internationally binding rules, at the same time requests a stop of the economic sanctions and asks policymakers to guarantee a reasonable framework for prospering co-operation.*

The wording of the resolution is found below:

1. The economic sanctions must come to an end. They are not the appropriate means to solve politically motivated conflicts. Sanctions trigger counter-sanctions, weakening the economy and leading to job losses.
2. The enterprises of Business Hanse intend to continue the good relations, particularly also with its members in Russia, and to conclude new collaboration projects to promote cross-border growth and technological development.
3. Policymakers must provide for the framework allowing enterprises to plan reliably and to expand business relations.
4. Borders between East and West may neither be re-established geographically nor ideologically. Economic co-operation and cultural exchange guarantee growth and prosperity.
5. When making decisions, the economic interests of Europe must be more strongly considered.
6. Europe cannot exist without Russia, Russia cannot exist without Europe. Germany and Russia in particular have a common history, which has led to a special relationship of trust on both sides in the past twenty years. The members of Business Hanse feel committed to that. This must be respected by policymakers in Germany and the European Union.
7. With all due respect and mutual understanding, the violation of internationally binding rules must be condemned sharply nevertheless and must come to an end immediately.

Background information: The members of Business Hanse, the Europe-wide network for entrepreneurs and companies, are reviving the traditional values of reputable merchants: Quality, trust and fairness in business relations. The goal is the same that it has been for centuries: To promote and to strengthen international trade through trust and clear rules. In addition, members can jointly use their strengths: A strong organization is growing through the combination of municipalities and business development, universities, enterprises and financial institutions, which intends to combine business in the 183 Hanseatic cities in 16 European countries.

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