

Dmitry Medvedev receives birthday greetings from heads of state and government of foreign countries and leaders of international organisations

During telephone conversations, the Russian Prime Minister accepted congratulations from President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister of Belarus Andrei Kobyakov, Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sapar Isakov, Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Saghintayev, and Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov. The parties also discussed current issues related to bilateral relations and upcoming meetings within the framework of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, the Eurasian Economic Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

On September 21, Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister of Finland Juha Sipila will attend the Russian-Finnish Cultural Forum in St Petersburg

Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister of Finland Juha Sipila, who will be in Russia on a working visit, will address the opening ceremony of the 18th Russian-Finnish Cultural Forum on September 21, 2017. The forum's main theme this year is One Hundred Faces of Culture. It will mark 100 years of Finland's state independence and will be held at the St Petersburg State Academic Capella.

Dmitry Medvedev and Juha Sipila will also hold talks on key topics concerning Russian-Finnish cooperation and the implementation of joint projects in infrastructure, energy, industry and high technology, as well as exchange opinions on other subjects of mutual interest.

Russia-Lebanon talks

Dmitry Medvedev held talks with Lebanon's President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri.

Excerpts from the transcript:

Meeting with Lebanon's President of the Council of Ministers Saad Hariri

Dmitry Medvedev: Your visit coincided with a period when our business links and the contacts between our governments are intensifying. The bilateral dialogue and contacts between our business communities are developing, which has led to the drafting of documents to be signed during your visit. There was a certain decline in our business activity but we have seen it building back up recently, particularly this year. This includes the structure of bilateral trade which, in our view, is becoming more optimal.

I would like to note your consistent policy of expanding cooperation with our country.

In every possible way, we support your course toward strengthening Lebanon's unity, preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Both our countries are facing all the problems of the modern world, including terrorism. In this context, I would like to congratulate you on the successful completion of the operation to eliminate extremist groups in Lebanon.

We are ready to further enhance our counter-terrorism cooperation and cooperation in other sensitive areas.

Tomorrow you are meeting with President Putin. Hopefully, your visit will start a new chapter in Russia-Lebanon relations.

Saad Hariri (via interpreter): Our political relations have reached an exceptional level and we would like our economic relations to reach the same level. Indeed, Lebanon is experiencing many problems, one of which is terrorism. We are defeating the terrorists but Lebanon still needs the help of friends like Russia.

There are many issues caused by the presence of Syrian refugees in our country. Should a political solution be found in Syria, it must provide for the return of Syrian refugees to their homes. I am not only talking about those in Lebanon but elsewhere in the world.

We are extremely serious about the need to develop our economic relations. At this particular time, it is very important to make sure that my visit becomes a significant investment in the strengthening of these relations.

Russian companies are now competing in tenders to develop gas deposits. We really want Russian businesses to have a presence in our country.

Shortly, we will get started on infrastructure investment projects and we would also like to see Russian companies operating in Lebanon.

We continue the rearmament of the Lebanese army and our wish is also to establish military cooperation with Russia.

To this day, we have managed to ensure the security of our country and stability in Lebanon. But the current task is to neutralise the threats coming from Syria and several other countries in the region, including Israel.

To secure our sovereignty, we need to further expand cooperation between security services and corresponding agencies.

Meeting of the Government Import Substitution Commission

Localising component production for research, testing and manufacturing equipment in photonics and microelectronics.

Excerpts from the transcript:

Meeting of the Government Import Substitution Commission

Dmitry Medvedev: Despite all the challenges, Russia has been quite successful overall in promoting import substitution. The pace of progress in critical areas has even exceeded our initial projections. I'm talking about the agriculture, engineering, fuel and energy complex, and radio electronics.

However, a lot has yet to be done to increase the share of Russian manufacturers in the value-added chain and to improve the competitiveness of products made in Russia.

Photonics is one promising area. We continue to pay close attention to this sector. This industry could become a key development driver for modern science and technology. Its products are widely used in research, the defence industry, micro electronics, engineering, medicine and many other areas. The market for civil photonics products is usually estimated at 60 to 70 billion roubles.

We started working on this sector in 2014 by updating all the industry-specific instruments, introducing new areas, such as quantum and optical

materials, radio photonics, nano photonics and bio photonics. Permanent industry-specific councils were established within the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Education and Science. An intergovernmental programme was approved to designate and select priority projects that would benefit from government support. This programme is expected to be launched this year.

The programme is also part of a new programme for scientific and technical development.

We have successful projects in this area, including the Skolkovo Quantum Centre, and research in radio electronics by the Foundation for Promising Research. Initiatives to this effect are underway in Sarov and in a number of other areas.

In addition, we have the task to minimise Russia's dependency on fibre optic imports in the short-term and eliminate this dependence completely in the future. All the prerequisites for achieving this goal are in place. What matters the most is that Russia has unique infrastructure in terms the distance it covers, which makes our country one of the largest markets for fibre optics. It is for this reason that it is essential that Russian manufacturers dominate this market.

Of course, there are other areas as well, including solar power and laser technology.

Our goal is to localise in Russian the manufacturing of components and materials used in photonics. It goes without saying that they should be competitive both in terms of quality and price, and also be relevant in the market.

Moscow Financial Forum

Dmitry Medvedev addressed a plenary session of the Moscow Financial Forum titled Financial System of the 21st Century Competitive Economy: Challenges and Solutions.



Viewing exhibition stands at the Moscow Financial Forum

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Viewing exhibition stands at the Moscow Financial Forum

Before the session, the Prime Minister viewed the forum's exhibition stands.

The Moscow Financial Forum is a platform for professional discussions aimed to build up effective solutions in the sphere of financial policy and enhance the competitiveness of the Russian economy.

MFF 2017 will focus on changing the structure of the global financial system to promote economic growth, deal with current challenges and ensure sustainable growth, as well as on international experience and national features of the digitalisation of the economy.