

Dear friends!

I am very glad to see such an impressive group of scientists and business representatives. I believe this to be a good union, which will bring about an increased development in social sciences, in liberal arts education in Russia, and first and foremost here, in the European University at St. Petersburg. This is not the first time that we are meeting, and I hope that we have been able to instill in our donors and sponsors the understanding that social sciences, political sciences and sociology play an important role in Russian society. We are ready to demonstrate to you today the results achieved over the past few years, and especially the last year, so that you can be assured that all funds donated towards the further development of the University are spent effectively.

I am happy to announce that just moments ago, in the office of Mikhail Borisovich, a very important event for the university took place – during the meeting of the EUSP International Advisory Board a document was ratified which includes a new Vision for the university on the global educational market; in other words, an ambitious strategic plan of development for EUSP on the international scene. Allow me to present to you several members of the International Advisory Board, who personally took part in this meeting, and who are presently among us in this room:

- James Wolfensohn – for many years the President of the World Bank and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Advance Study in Princeton;
- Henry Rosovsky – legendary Dean of Harvard College, who radically reformed this institution in 1974;
- John DeGioia – President of Georgetown University;

Not present here, the following also took part in the creation and ratification of this document:

- Thomas Pickering – United States Ambassador to Russia (1993 – 1996) and Vice President of Boeing;
- Jonathan Fanton – Director of the MacArthur Foundation (2001-2009) and former President of the New School for Social Research in New York;
- Gerhard Casper – for many years the President of Stanford University, who did much for its successful development.

And now, allow me to present to you the important document entitled: “The European University at Saint-Petersburg: Vision, Mission, Strategy.”

Russia has a rich inheritance in the areas of culture and education, and has a wide experience in the fight with fundamental social upheavals. At the present time the country is trying to reintegrate itself into the global scene. And here it is uniquely positioned, by virtue of its geography. However, higher education and quality research tailored to current and future international standards are a major prerequisite for a successful reintegration. Moreover, new “global” Russians can, and should, contribute to collective international efforts aimed at solving the problems of the 21st century.

The European University at Saint-Petersburg was created some time ago with the personal involvement of Mr. Sobchak. I was his assistant, together we helped in the creation of this school, in essence an independent, private university in Russia.

However, at the present time, the university has outgrown its original mode of a graduate school. In order to use its intellectual resources more efficiently, the university needs to upgrade its structure. It needs to become an equivalent to a “technopark” in the humanities and social sciences, an “incubator” for new social and cultural technologies. And I am saying this in the presence of the Chairman of the Skolkovo Fund, leaders of other innovative companies. We want to be an innovative company in the area of humanities and social sciences, and we want to be able to compete with both Russian and Western centers. May I remind you that according to the London School of Economics the European University at St. Petersburg is already rated as one of the top one hundred schools in Europe for political science and sociology.

One may ask, why should Russia, specifically, become the “growing point” for humanities and social sciences?

Russia is increasingly seen as a laboratory of various challenges in the modern world, ranging from issues linked to its geopolitical location between East and West to such global problems as climate change, deteriorating industrial infrastructure, or other new social ills.

Taking into consideration the intensive joint programs and scientific exchanges of the last twenty years, in which EUSP was involved, and the presence of a leading group of internationally oriented teachers and researchers, students,

receiving their degree at EUSP, are becoming an important asset in the work of re-integrating Russia into the global world.

I will add that the international orientation of EUSP is already working not only in Russia, but also on a global scale. It so happens that EUSP alumni become leading professors in other international institutes, in Princeton, Cambridge, and so forth. But on our side, we are also able to attract faculty members from leading international universities.

And if Russia, then why, specifically, Saint-Petersburg?

Established in 1703, Saint-Petersburg was from the start a global city in the most modern sense of the word. It has since developed a strong reputation in urban and urbane life, high culture and the arts. It was also a strong contributor in the social sciences, primarily in first-class Islamic and oriental research. Today the city has a potential to restore its unique tradition of multi-cultural and multi-faceted intellectual thought and research – a true global cultural capital.

And now we turn to our Vision of the new role for the European University in Russia and the world.

In the very near future the European University will become the NUMBER ONE international, independent university in Russia. Since it is primarily oriented towards research, that is an internationally accepted model of a research university, it will produce professionals, capable of playing leadership roles and solving problems confronting the global community.

The Mission of the European University at Saint-Petersburg is to reinstate responsibility, ethics and virtues as guiding principles for new professionals. In restoring the ideals of Antiquity, and in adding to them Russian traditions of a versatile, multi-faceted education, tying together Europe and Asia, the European University will create an environment for the development and growth of leaders capable of solving global problems. As an international university, located in Russia, EUSP will integrate Russia's future elite into the network of global decision-makers.

In comparison with other Russian universities EUSP will become the truly first international community of scholars on Russian soil. All prerequisites for this are in place; examples are – IMARES – an international Master of Arts in Russian and Eurasian Studies, MARCA PETROPOLITANA – an international Master of Arts in Russian Culture and the Arts, and other programs. And each year similar

programs are being created, programs with a global orientation, which are becoming the rule at EUSP.

As a direct result of the new Mission, a new Strategy has also been developed for EUSP:

First, the university will perfect and strengthen the core structure of a graduate, research-oriented university, by setting up new research institutes and international training programs. These will include modern Oriental Studies, research in the development of science and technology (“Science and Technology Studies”), research into the ties of modern politics and energy (“Energy and Politics Studies”), and many more. To fulfill these goals we will hire the best Russian and international scholars. It will also be necessary to redesign the university’s physical surroundings, in order to correspond to modern needs, and to turn the university into an attractive and welcoming site for creative students and faculty.

Second, EUSP will expand its student capacity. At the present time debate is going on about offering Baccalaureate Degrees. However, it is obvious that the university will start to offer many new types of programs, from adult education to other various forms of educational programs, which will produce successful representatives of a new middle class and new senior managers. These new programs will be based on already successful models, such as the MPhil program, an analog to a Western MBA, but in the area of philosophy, sociology and the arts. I can personally vouch for the quality of this program, having sampled several of the courses. And this type of program plays a very important role for the future, by providing a direct link between business and education.

In conclusion I would like to say that we are proposing a substantial increase in the number of students at EUSP, first and foremost the number of graduate students, somewhere in the area of 200 to 500 students. At the present time EUSP has around 100 faculty members, it is proposed to lower this number, but to hire only star-quality professors, who will be representative of not only the university, but of St. Petersburg as a whole. This student to faculty ratio will be similar to the one in the European University in Florence, with which many of you are familiar.

Now, about our financing goals – I need to stress that we are number three in the size of our endowment capital, and it is anticipated that in a matter of five years some 130 million dollars will be added to the endowment fund. This will allow for the accomplishment of the goals of which I have just spoken. We have just been discussing this question, and I asked my colleagues, what are the impediments in

fulfilling these goals. Of course, the most important matter is to hire and to retain the most results-oriented and creative professorial staff, to select star-quality specialists. This will not happen quickly, this is a serious task of creating an environment and culture, of running necessary analyses, of providing a contingency of students, who will themselves become part of this program and eventually become members of the faculty. But I believe these problems to be surmountable.

During a period of one year, EUSP publishes over twenty books, and some of them immediately become best sellers, publications which are quoted, so one can see the results of our work even today.

Our task, and mine personally, is to attract Russian sponsors and donors to these programs. Among those present are those who have contributed a million, some even two million, and for this we are sincerely grateful. But it is not important that we have passed a certain period of getting to know each other, a stage of small involvement; at the present time we are looking for long term, stable income, although we have a system in place for even small donations. The university endowment plan consists of general endowment giving, named professorships, giving for programs of a particular direction, for specific programs; that is why we are ready to work with small endowment gifts, which, from the point of view of the investors, will be most effective.

And now I will pass the floor to the Rector of the European University at Saint-Petersburg, who will inform you about the achievements of EUSP over the last year.