



**ПОСОЛЬСТВО РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ СЛОВЕНИИ**

**VELEPOSLANIŠTVO RUSKE FEDERACIJE
V REPUBLIKI SLOVENIJI**

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Press release on the St.Petersburg International Economic Forum

During the period May 24 - 26, 2018 the 22nd International Economic Forum (SPIEF 2018) was held in St. Petersburg. This is the most significant annual economic conference in our country, during which the leaders of states, finance ministers, Russian and foreign entrepreneurs discuss the economic issues facing the Russian Federation and the world as a whole.

The SPIEF-2018 was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Emmanuel Macron, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Vice President of the People's Republic of China Wang Qishan, Head of IMF Kristin Lagarde and about 17 thousand people from 143 countries. Among them are the heads of 700 Russian and 400 foreign companies, 3,000 journalists. At SPIEF-2018 more than 550 contracts and agreements were signed for a total amount of 2.3 trillion rubles (more than 37 billion US dollars). For comparison, last year at SPIEF-2017 there were 14 thousand guests, while 386 agreements were signed for the sum of 1.8 trillion rubles.

The largest delegation to the SPIEF-2018 was the Americans, who visited the forum in a group of more than 550 people. They are followed by the Japanese and the French.

The motto of the SPIEF in this year - "Creating economy of trust." The agreement between Rosatom and a number of French energy companies can be regarded as an evidence that trust is returning to the world economy. In total, these contracts are estimated at about one billion rubles and provide for the processing and enrichment of French uranium in the period up to 2032.

During the SPIEF-2018 world leaders held a series of negotiations, including bilateral meetings, and made several important statements.

One of the most significant events in this sense was the plenary session on May 25, at which Vladimir Putin spoke, in particular, about the main tasks of his new presidential term and the goals that Russia faces.

In turn, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that Japan needed in Russian gas supply and proposed to include "turbo-mode" in bilateral relations. The French President Emmanuel Macron struck guests at the SPIEF with a retelling of "War and Peace" novel, as well as quotations from Solzhenitsyn. In addition, the French leader spoke in favor of Russia's membership in the Council of Europe.

World leaders could not avoid the US issue. For example, Vice Chairman of the ruling party in China Wang Qishan said, that "swinging a punishment baton is unacceptable."

Naturally, such a large-scale event as the SPIEF-2018 could not pass away unnoticed for the Western media. The main theses of foreign journalists can be reduced to one simple idea: while the US president breaks alliances, Russia (in the person of Vladimir Putin) strengthens its position in the world arena. «The more US President Donald Trump creates tensions in existing alliances, the more important is President Putin», wrote the influential business magazine Bloomberg