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## 7. UKRAINE: FIRST CIS LOCAL COUNSEL FORUM TO BE HELD

Wide scale meeting of business lawyers from twelve countries

29-30 June 2006, Radisson SAS Hotel, Kiev, Ukraine

Vakhtang Mikadze, Forum Coordinator

Russian-Ukrainian Legal Group, Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, June 26, 2006

KYIV - We are pleased to announce the CIS Local Counsel Forum, being held at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Kiev on Wednesday, June 28 - Friday, June 30, 2006.

The Forum is the first ever wide-scale meeting of business lawyers from the CIS economic region, representing Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The Forum will bring together CIS law firms with the international legal community, represented by international law firms from all over the world and corporate counsel from a number of major multinational companies.

The Forum is a non-political gathering of more than 100 leading business lawyers from 30 countries who share the Mission of the Forum, which is "Bringing together the CIS and international legal communities with the aim of creating joint business opportunities and long-term cooperation". The Mission of the Forum reflects the 21st century reality, in which global investors view the CIS countries as a broad economic region with intertwined business connections and comparable legal systems.

Consequently, this region also represents, on a global scale, a larger legal services market. The Forum will provide Delegates with an opportunity to meet each other, share their experiences and news on legal and business developments in their countries and establish new connections.

Based on the results of the Forum, a CIS Local Counsel Association will be established. Subsequent Forums will be held annually in other CIS capitals on a rotating basis.

Starting out with a Welcome and Introductory Remarks from the Conference Co-Chairs Dr. Irina Paliashvili, Russian-Ukrainian Legal Group, P.A., and Mr. John Whittaker, Clyde & Co., the Forum will feature a mix of panels focusing on the legal and business climates of each CIS country, a separate panel showcasing Ukraine, presentations by international law firms and corporate counsel, as well as substantive panels on specific areas of business law, such as Mergers & Acquisitions, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Corporate Social Responsibility and others.

Keynote speakers at the Forum are Mr. Mykola Onischuk, a People's Deputy of Ukraine, and Mr. Serhiy Budkin, Managing Partner, FinPoint Investment Advisers. A number of prominent members of Ukraine's business, diplomatic, legal and cultural communities have been invited as the Forum's honored guests.