

EDITORIAL

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Why We Need a Close Cooperation between Russian and European Medicine

Currently, the well-established and close cooperation between Russia and Europe is endangered. Many feel that ties are worse than they have been for a long long time. This affects numerous aspects of our public life and our economy. This situation may suit certain forces in our countries. Historically, it is a catastrophe.

Russia and Europe are united in so many ways and over most of their history: In geography, there is no natural divide between Europe and Russia. The heart of Russia is in Europe. The Ural divides Russia as much as Europe and Asia. It is some 1500 verst East of Moscow.

In history, large parts of Europe received population influx from nowadays Russia. For centuries Russia and Europe — side-by-side — had to defend themselves from Turkish expansion. Russian aristocracy since the Romanov times received blood from European families, many of them from Germany.

In religion, the common thread was Islam, whereas Russia and Europe were and are united by Christianity through the Byzantine legacy.

In economy, highly industrialised Europe and Russia rich in all necessary natural resources are a perfect match. Without Europe's technological know how and without Russia's natural resources neither part will flourish.

And there is the all important sphere of culture. Greek science, Italian enlightenment, English rationalism, French systematism and German engineering and perfectionism meet the Russian soul. In its most successful eras Russia managed to amalgamate all this. Science — and medicine with it — is the finest product of culture. Here, Russia and Europe need to meet most urgently. It is up to us to realise the opportunities Russia and Europe have, when they collaborate and when they use them to the best of both of our interests.