



AMBER NECKLACE WARDENS

There is always a temptation to ask: why is it necessary to launch a new magazine? I will be frank: there are several reasons in the given case. One of them is clearly personal. I know the Baltic countries well as I lived for nearly 40 years on the coast of the Baltic Sea. I still have numerous friends and acquaintances in the amber necklace region. Each time I visit the region I return home with sad feelings as relations between Russia and the Baltic countries have long lost genuine good neighborliness.

On the one hand, you can hardly see any specific changes in the attitude of our neighbors. But on the other hand, political elites seem to have staked only on disagreements between the countries and on old and new hard feelings. However the approach contradicts elementary commonsense which, on the contrary, demands to search for ways to unify rather than divide peoples, to promote problem settlement rather than aggravation in order to preserve the amber necklace mascot forever.

In other words, both our magazine and the Amber Bridge Fund face the task of promoting a “reset” in Russian-Baltic relations. The definition clearly describes the process which we work to launch. We have to join efforts to comprehend various historic events in the life of the Baltic countries and drop existing ideological bias.

The magazine will offer to you the research of the Baltic Civilization Institute which has engaged ten countries of the Baltic region into its orbit. It will continue to promote humanitarian and social projects which have been frozen for many years. I hope the Institute, of which Academician Alexander Chubaryan, the Director of General History Institute is honorary president, will offer a unique platform to provide answers to most vital and con-

flicting questions. If they decrease in number with time and if difficulties are ironed out that will mean we are partners who successfully joined efforts.

We believe much has to be done to revive economic contacts between Russia and the northern region of the European Union. The Fund’s Charter calls to promote economic cooperation with all countries of the Baltic region. And as they say today, we target deep integration of the intellectual potential of all countries of the region.

Russia and the countries on the Baltic Sea coast have always been linked by a single cultural space which has been partially lost in the past decades. It is a specifically important and sensitive segment of our upcoming cooperation. We have succeeded to achieve something already.

The Fund stakes on young people as they are free of stereotypes and willing to contact each other. We shall offer grants to gifted students from Baltic countries so they can study in Russia universities and we shall organize study placement. Such an exchange between universities and institutes shall become permanent with time.

In a word, realists have gathered in the Fund and the international Amber Bridge magazine. They are people of action who will span bridges. The profession of a bridge builder has been respected since times immemorial. You will agree that spanning banks and offering prospects to people is a noble and demanded deed. Our hopes and ideas target prosperity of all countries of the Baltic commonwealth.

Yuri Sizov,
Amber Bridge Fund President