XX Anniversary Conference:  
Department of Commercial Law  
St. Petersburg State University Law Faculty

Andrei Bushev

From left to right:  
First row: Prof. Dr. Vladimir Popondopulo, Prof. Dr. Valentina Iakovleva,  
Dotsemt Konstantin Lebedev  
Second row: Dotsemt Nataliia Kovalyvkaia, Dotsemt Oleg Skvortsov, Prof. dr. Oleg  
Gorodov, Dotsemt Olga Makarova, Senior Lecturer Mikhail Kovalevskii,  
Dotsemt Dmitrii Nefedov, Dotsemt Andrei Bushev  
Photograph reproduced with the kind permission of Dmitrii Nefedov.

The Department of Commercial Law at St. Petersburg State University (SPbGU) Faculty of Law is one of the leading centers for research and teaching in the field of (comparative) commercial law in the Russian Federation. When created in 1985, the department was headed by the

1 Translated by Curtis Budden.
late Professor Anatolii A. Sobchak, who later became the first mayor of St. Petersburg. For the past fourteen years, the department’s staff has been guided by Professor Sobchak’s successor, Professor Dr. Vladimir F. Popondopulo.

No small number of graduates of the Faculty of Law, of which the Department is a part, has achieved fame in various sectors of pre- and post-Revolutionary Russian society: Aleksandr Blok, Nikolai Gumilev, Leonid Andreev, Mikhail Zo-shchenko, Mikhail Vrubel’, Igor Stravinsky; and three former Russian prime ministers: Aleksandr Kerensky, Boris Shtiarmer, and Vladimir Lenin. The current President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir V. Putin, received his education within the faculty’s walls, as did the heads of ministries and agencies and many of Russia’s leading lawyers.

On 11 November 2005, the department celebrated its XX anniversary, marking the occasion with an international conference for scholars and practitioners alike.

Among the participants were some of the leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of Russian entrepreneurial and commercial law; as well as members of the Russian judiciary from the RF Higher Arbitration Court, the Federal Arbitration Court of the Northwest Region, the Thirteenth Arbitration Appeals Court, the Arbitration Court of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast; and students—both graduates and undergraduates alike. Conference guests also included legal scholars from foreign jurisdictions—near and far: Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and The Netherlands.

The conference consisted of three parts: during the first part, the assembled guests paid compliments to the department on the occasion of its anniversary; the second part included eight presentations; and the third and final part involved an exchange of opinions on a variety of problems in the field of entrepreneurial (commercial) law.

The conference was opened by the Dean of the Law Faculty at St. Petersburg State, Professor Dr. Nikolai M. Kropachev, who noted the department’s achievements in putting a new, modern face on the Law Faculty.

A number of individuals paid their compliments to the department, including the Chairperson of the Federal Arbitration Court of the Northwest Region, A.N. Komarov; the Vice-President of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Advocates, R.Z. Chinakoev; the Deputy Chairperson of the Leningrad Oblast’ Chamber of Advocates, N.M. Bulgakova; the Executive Director of the Russian Union of Lawyers, V.V. Grib; a department head from the Kuban State Agricultural University, Dr. V.P. Kamyshanskii; an instructor from the same university, A.I. Konovalov; Chairperson of the