

**LETTER OF WELCOME**

Dear friends,

The Commonwealth of Independent States has reached a stage in its history where we must build upon the success we have achieved in our cooperation and integration so far, and make this cooperation even more effective.

Today, all the Commonwealth's countries are focusing their efforts on implementing the decisions adopted by their heads of state in Dushanbe. Perhaps the most important of the documents ratified there are the Concept for the Future Development of the CIS and the Action Plan for implementing the Concept. These strategic documents are aimed at adapting the CIS to present-day circumstances and increasing the efficiency of the union.

Work is under way to draft a CIS Economic Development Strategy until 2020, which will incorporate the 14 areas addressed in the Concept for the Future Development of the CIS.

The focus of this Strategy is innovation – building a new economy based on our successful cooperation, and developing products and services for today's world which will give Commonwealth countries a competitive advantage for many years to come.

The Executive Committee of the CIS welcomes the launch of Eurasian Integration Yearbook, a publication that will cover a wide range of issues relating to the Commonwealth. I hope that this outstanding volume will make a tangible contribution to the integration of the CIS member states.

With best wishes,



SERGEY LEBEDEV  
CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES